Global Coordination Project for the Common Oceans ABNJ Program

Part I: Project Information

Name of Parent Program

Common Oceans - Sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction

GEF ID

10626

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT **No**

NGI **No**

Project Title

Global Coordination Project for the Common Oceans ABNJ Program

Countries

Global

Agency(ies)

FAO

Other Executing Partner(s)

FAO

Executing Partner Type

GEF Agency

GEF Focal Area

International Waters

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming, Fisheries, Species, Threatened Species, Financial and Accounting, Conservation Finance, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, National Adaptation Plan, Small Island Developing States, Private sector, Innovation, Climate resilience, Least Developed Countries, International Waters, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, SIDS : Small Island Dev States, Learning, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approache, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Communications, Public Campaigns, Education, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Strategic Communications, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Participation, Private Sector, Large corporations, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange

Sector

Rio Markers
Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation
Climate Change Adaptation 1

Submission Date
11/25/2021

Expected Implementation Start
6/1/2022

Expected Completion Date
5/31/2027

Duration
60In Months

Agency Fee($)
247,706.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
IW-2-4	Sustainable utilization and biodiversity conservation achieved in ABNJ	GET	2,752,294.00	10,256,256.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**2,752,294.00**	**10,256,256.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Maximize the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of GEF-7 investments in the Common Oceans ABNJ program.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 1: Programme coordination, monitoring and adaptive management.	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1: The Program and its child projects (including participating partners) are collaborative and adaptive, through an effective and synergistic programme. Outcome 1.2: Project partners, integrated and aligned on ten joint activities, where appropriate, to increase effectiveness of the interventions at Program and Child Project levels. Outcome 1.3: The progress of the program are effectively and consistently monitored, and the results guide adaptive management of the Program.	Output 1.1.1: Programme-wide coordination of actions that are common to two or more child-projects to ensure they are consistent and cohesive through bi-monthly coordination meetings. Output 1.2.1: Collaborative partnerships synergizing their actions on common issues in the ABNJ following an agreed partnership strategy with ten opportunities for cooperation jointly identified. Output 1.3.1: Harmonized programmatic M&E system to guide adaptive program management and reporting with yearly programmatic reports.	GET	688,912.00	1,030,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2: Knowledge management, communications and outreach, and capacity building for effective and integrated sustainable use of the ABNJ.	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2.1: Experiences and models of sustainable use of ABNJ are collated, analyzed and effectively communicated through 28 results reports) including IW:Learn notes), stimulating scaling up and replication. *GEF Indicator 11: 5,950 direct beneficiaries (3,575 men - 2,375 women) GEF Indicator 7.4: At least level 3 engagement in IW:Learn activities* Outcome 2.2: Increased capacity among global, regional and national actors in common areas of learning (e.g. ecosystem approach, natural capital assessment, climate change, monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) communication). Outcome2.3: General public increasingly	Output 2.1.1: Integrated Program KM and Communication (KMC) strategy developed and implemented with common messaging and guidance for coordinated, consistent and harmonized communications learned including 1% allocation to IW:Learn activities. Output 2.1.2: Guidance and support provided to the projects for dissemination of knowledge products that capture lessons learned through six KMC meetings, trainings and workshops. Consolidation of lessons learned across the Program into a narrative of the programmatic impacts. Output 2.2.1: Five capacity building products	GET	619,512.00	3,315,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 3: Innovative private sector engagement in the ABNJ.	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3.1: The private sector enabled to engage and innovatively invest in collective action to address ?global? or ?ABNJ wide? sustainability issues through at least 12 private sector entities with enhanced understanding and ability to act to address ABNJ sustainability.	Output 3.1.1: Nine strategic documents and forums that improve private sector understanding of the financial feasibility and risks associated with investments and promote partnerships to support actions to address ABNJ-wide sustainability issues.	GET	1,312,808.00	5,418,956.00
		Outcome 3.2: Model/approach for improved engagement of the private sector in addressing collective action in the ABNJ developed, established and operational with two financially viable private sector models and pilots.	Output 3.2.1: Two private sector investment agreements that contributes to realizing Program objectives. Output 3.2.2: Two pilot studies applies the value chain approach demonstrating private sector adoption of best practices to improve sustainable use of ABNJ resources.			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
				Sub Total ($)	**2,621,232.00**	**9,763,956.00**
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	131,062.00	492,300.00
				Sub Total($)	**131,062.00**	**492,300.00**
				Total Project Cost($)	**2,752,294.00**	**10,256,256.00**

Please provide justification

Kindly note that the GEF grants allocated under Outcome 1.3 - Output 1.3.1 includes 86,650 USD for M&E costs

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,515,000.00
Donor Agency	WWF-US	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	6,258,901.00
Donor Agency	Conservation International (CI)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	482,355.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**10,256,256.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

n/a

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
FAO	GET	Global	International Waters	International Waters	2,752,294	247,706	3,000,000.00
				Total Grant Resources($)	**2,752,294.00**	**247,706.00**	**3,000,000.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount ($)

100,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

9,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
FAO	GET	Global	International Waters	International Waters	100,000	9,000	**109,000.00**
				Total Project Costs($)	**100,000.00**	**9,000.00**	**109,000.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 7 Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem		Global		
Count	0	1	0	0

Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagonostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministeral Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN throgh participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Global Select SWE		3		

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		2,375		

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Male		3,575		
Total	0	5950	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Core Indicator 11 This is based on GEF?s definition that this indicator captures the number of individual people who receive targeted support from a given GEF project/activity and/or who use the specific resources that the project maintains or enhances. Support is defined as direct assistance from the project/activity. Direct beneficiaries are all individuals receiving targeted support from a given project. Targeted support is the intentional and direct assistance of a project to individuals or groups of individuals who are aware that they are receiving that support and/or who use the specific resources. Under this project, targeted support and/or use of resources can be through: Type of beneficiary: Participation in trainings, consultations, workshops, webinars, meetings: 525 Men ? 325 Women ? Total 850 Users of products generated by the project e.g. web platform, business cases, online learning resources: 3,050 Men - 2,050 Women ? Total 5,100 Total: 3,575 Men - 2,375 Women ? Total 5,950 Estimated target values were provided by FAO and partners for each activity planned under the project. Monitoring will be through logs of usage of online tools and courses and participant lists provided by partners.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

a. The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

Context

This is the umbrella Global Coordination Project (GCP ? GEF ID 10626) for the program ?Common Oceans - Sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction? (GEF ID 10548) that addresses the challenges arising from the shifting scenario on the management of the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). The Program has been developed to demonstrate and promote more comprehensive processes and integrated approaches to the sustainable use and management of the ABNJ. It will take into account the likely demands of ongoing processes such as the new BBNJ Agreement, build on the results and lessons of the GEF-5 Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Program (GEF ID 4580) and complement the efforts of various partners and parallel initiatives including the GEF multi-country Large-Marine Ecosystem (LME) approach and Regional Seas Programs.

The BBNJ negotiations started in 2017 to develop an implementing agreement under the framework of UNCLOS to address the sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity in the areas beyond national jurisdiction - often referred to as the BBNJ Agreement. The final text is expected to be ready in 2022, after negotiations are resumed after the pandemic hiatus.

The Program consists of five child projects (Table 1). Two global projects will promote more sustainable management of tuna and deep-sea fisheries (fisheries sector focus). A third project seeks to build capacity to improve cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination on key ABNJ issues at global level (thematic focus), and a fourth project examines multi-sectoral governance (stewardship) in a pilot area, the Sargasso Sea (geographical focus). Finally, the fifth child project will ensure effective coordination, communication, partnerships, lesson learning and knowledge management between the other child projects and support innovative financing initiatives for sustainable use of ABNJ resources across the Program (program level focus).

The Program was developed through collaboration between three GEF Agencies ? FAO, UNDP, UNEP ? and the GEF Secretariat. These three agencies will collaborate in the implementation of the Program. Other GEF Agencies such as World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US), Conservation International, and a wide array of interested stakeholders, including the private sector, will also take part in the Program?s implementation.

Initial work on the development of the Program included a review and analysis of the current situation facing ABNJ, and the development of a framework to address the issues affecting the sustainable use of ABNJ. The result of this work was captured in a Theory of Change for the Program, and followed by

the development of concepts/proposals to address the key challenges facing ABNJ, as well as actions needed to deliver sustainable management of ABNJ resources.

Special consideration has been given to opportunities for cross-fertilization and collaboration across child projects and between stakeholders to address the different issues identified in the programmatic Theory of Change and working towards programmatic outcomes that would amplify the possible contributions of the individual projects. The two fisheries projects will collaborate directly in activities of common interest and scope. The cross-sectoral project will enhance the cross-sectoral capacity of national governments, and relevant regional and global entities to effectively address issues of common concern in ABNJ through cooperation, coordination and effective knowledge exchange. This project will be undertaken in the context of two pilot regions: the Southeast Pacific region and the Pacific Islands Region in collaboration with the Pacific Islands. The Sargasso Sea project will demonstrate a possible structure for management of ecosystems impacted by human activities, while the coordination project will provide a space to construct a common narrative to track the progress towards the desired outcomes from a programmatic perspective and to enable coordinated and consistent outreach to target audiences.

Table 1: Projects of the Common Oceans Program

The GEF7 Common Oceans - Sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction Program (GEF ID 10548)			
Child Project	GEF ID	GEF Agency	GEF Grants
Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the areas beyond national jurisdiction	10622	FAO	14,378,000
Deep-sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach	10623	FAO	4,437,156
Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Capacity to Support Sustainable Resource Use and Biodiversity Conservation in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	10697	UNEP	2,500,000
Strengthening the stewardship of an economically and biologically significant high seas area ? the Sargasso Sea	10620	UNDP	2,652,294
Global Coordination Project of the Common Oceans ABNJ Program	10626	FAO	2,752,294

Global Importance of the ABNJ

The marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), including the commonly called High Seas, are those areas of ocean for which no one nation has the specific or sole responsibility for management, this responsibility being shared by all interested States through a number of intergovernmental organizations. The ABNJ make up 40% of the surface of our planet, 64% of the surface of the oceans and nearly 95% of its volume (see Figure 3). They also abut or even encompass sections of most of the world?s Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) that extend beyond national jurisdictions. Their complex ecosystems, which include the water column and seabed, seamounts, hydrothermal vents, deep-sea trenches and submarine canyons, and oceanic ridges, support high biodiversity in some places, particularly the benthic environment. They are often a great distance from coasts making sustainable management of their natural resources and biodiversity conservation especially challenging.

The oceans make significant contributions to commerce, employment and nutrition and food security, as well as a range of other essential ecosystem services, including climate regulation and carbon sequestration.

Collectively, it is estimated that ocean-based industries and activities contribute hundreds of millions of jobs and approximately US$2.5 trillion to the global economy each year, making it the world?s seventh-largest economy when compared with national gross domestic products. In addition, the nonmarket services and benefits provided by the global ocean are significant and may in fact far exceed the value added by market-based goods and services. Even though detailed information for specific regions is usually not available, the economic contribution from ABNJ can be substantial.

Wild capture fisheries produce approximately 79.3 million metric tons (mmt) of landings annually, representing 46.4% of global seafood production (170.9 mmt) and US$130 billion in first sale value[5]5, and the fisheries sector is the dominant sector economically in ABNJ. More than 200 species and species groups of highly migratory, oceanic and deep-water fish and invertebrate species are caught in the ABNJ. Total catches of these species increased from about 1.3 million tons, or 8% of the global marine catch in 1950 to an average of over 10 million tons per year, equal to 12% of the global marine catch, between 2000 and 2009. Tuna fisheries are by far the most important fisheries particularly to developing economies, especially in the tropical western and central Pacific Ocean which is the most important tuna fishing area in the world. The tuna catch in the West Pacific Ocean is greater than that of the Atlantic, Indian and East Pacific Oceans combined (FAO, 2010a) and the economies of the island countries in the region depend heavily on tuna fisheries

ABNJ provide significant contribution to food security with fish from ABNJ a particularly important source of animal protein in many people?s diets, and again is especially important for Small Island Developing Nations. Again, the catch of tuna is particularly important. For example it is estimated that

at least 2.5 million tons of global tuna caught annually is destined for the canning industry and globally around 256 million cases are consumed (3.2 million tons whole round equivalent), valued at US$ 7.5 billion (Hamilton et al., 2011). Therefore, ensuring the long-term sustainability of ABNJ fisheries is inherently linked to providing food security, as well as vital livelihoods, revenue and employment, economic development and other social and cultural benefits in many regions of the world.

Other significant economic and socially important uses of ABNJ include its value for maritime transport (around 90% of world trade is transported by sea) and the oceans are crisscrossed by submarine cables that provide much of the backbone for the world?s telecommunications and internet connections. In addition, the deep seas contain significant hydrocarbon and mineral resources such as rare earth metals of high strategic and potentially economic value. With the development of new technologies, bioprospecting of marine organisms and the potentially very valuable exploration of marine genetic resources is also becoming of increasing interest and attracting new investment by the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. For example sponges, which are often found on seamounts, have been a source of medically active compounds.

In terms of other essential ecosystem services, the oceans are a regulator of climate, estimated to produce over half of the world?s oxygen, and act as a buffer to increasing greenhouse gases, capturing an estimated 57% of atmospheric carbon and storing 50 times more carbon dioxide than the atmosphere, so are critical element in addressing the climate crisis.

Threats

Although the ABNJ is remote from the coast, some areas are heavily impacted from a range of human uses. The biodiversity and ecosystems of ABNJ are subject to multiple anthropogenic threats, including overfishing, IUU fishing, pollution, habitat loss and degradation, and climate change impacts, which can be widespread and cumulative. A general lack of transparency of fishing activities in ABNJ in particular result in multiple and interrelated fishery-driven threats.

Overfishing of species, causing declines in abundance of target species below their optimal level, particularly of iconic pelagic highly migratory species such as tuna, has received perhaps the most attention historically. Globally, it is estimated that 33 % of marine fish stocks are currently overexploited and 60 % are considered fully utilized, meaning that 93 % of stocks have limited or no potential for increasing production (FAO, 2018). For major commercial tuna stocks, recent stock assessments estimate that globally 65% of stocks are at a healthy level of abundance, 13% are overfished and 22% are at an intermediate level (ISSF, 2019a). From a socio-economic point of view, fish stocks that are at low levels of abundance threaten people?s livelihoods and food security, with reduced contributions to national economies.

High levels of Illegal, Underreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing further compromise sustainable utilization. IUU fishing also deprives legal fishers of their livelihoods and is linked to slavery, human rights violations and transnational organized crime. At the global level, estimates for IUU fishing across all marine fisheries range between 11 and 26 million tonnes per year (around 15% of global catch), leading to an estimated loss of between US$ 10 to US$ 23.5 billion annually. This is thought to represent between 12 and 28.5 5% of global capture fisheries production (FAO 2014). For instance, a study conducted in 2016 on tuna fisheries in the Pacific estimated the total volume of tuna

catches taken through IUU fishing at 306,440 tonnes with a value of US$ 616.1 million (MRAG Asia Pacific, 2016). Overall, across ABNJ, such losses not only have a profound socio-economic impact (jobs, livelihoods, food supplies and regional security) but represent a serious threat to managing fisheries sustainably and threatens the marine environment.

A lack of transparency including effective monitoring of high-seas fishing also results in high risk of labor violations, IUU fishing and possible excessive by-catch. Irregular sampling coverage and reporting of by-catch levels undermines the ability of the scientific community of making an accurate assessment of the true impact on the affected resources.

Excess fishing capacity is another current and potential future threat to biodiversity and sustainability in ABNJ. Subsidies for fuel, vessel construction, and other ?capacity-enhancing? activities artificially lower fishing costs and enabling a level of fishing capacity and pressure to levels that result in economically wasteful and envioronmetally unsustainable fishing (Costello et.al. 2021). Indeed, governments around the world collectively distribute an estimated US$35 billion per year to the fishing industry, nearly US$22 billion of which is thought to be in a form that incentivizes increased fishing (Sumaila et al. 2019). This is of particular concern in some high-seas fishing where governance oversight and control of fishing effort may be lacking. As the World Trade Organization attempts to conclude its decades-long negotiations on fishing subsidies, and aid the global community in achieving SDG target 14.6 to prohibit certain fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity, overfishing, and illegal fishing, uncertanties about the robustness of the agreement remain.

Overfishing has led to several species of tuna becoming globally threatened (notably southern bluefin tuna Thunnus maccoyii and Atlantic bluefin tuna Thunnus thynnus, which are recovering from Critically Endangered and Endangered status respectively). Large amounts of fishing effort have contributed to the risks faced by several other internationally protected species such as marine turtles seabirds, and whale sharks. Large amounts of fishing effort have also resulted in excessive catches of non-target species of sharks and other fish species, as well as small, often juvenile, tuna (<10 kg), particularly yellowfin and bigeye tuna, caught as bycatch. Bycatch has been estimated to be of a global magnitude of 38.5 million tonnes representing over 40 percent of total catches. Indeed, an estimated 25 percent of sharks, rays, and chimeras are threatened as a result of overfishing, which along with other bycatch disrupts marine food webs and reduces marine ecosystem functioning and resilience.

New technologies and approaches have led to increases in fishing efficiencies. For instance, Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs), which are largely man-made floating structures made of wood that attract fish and other marine life, can considerably increase catch rates. They have been increasingly used in tuna fisheries since the 1990s, and almost 65% of purse seine catches are currently carried out using FADs. Worldwide, it is estimated that nearly 91,000 FADs are deployed annually (Lopez and Scott, 2014). However, FAD fishing results in a significant level of unwanted by-catch: 4?5% of catches per set comprise non-targeted species. An estimated 10% of FADs are lost each year contributing to ?ghost-fishing? (Maufroy, 2016). Lost and abandoned FADs could end up ?beaching? in sensitive habitat areas, entangle vulnerable species and contribute to plastic pollution.

In the case of deep-sea fisheries, the depth limit of commercial fishing is about 2,000 m which restricts fishing to only about 3% of the high seas area. However, even though the number of vessels and the tonnages of demersal species caught in the high seas is relatively low (certainly compared to tuna

fisheries), the relatively small areas available for fishing and the uniqueness and fragility of these areas (e.g. seamounts and hydrothermal vents) mean that impacts to stocks and biodiversity can be significant (more so in the past) and must be actively monitored and managed.

Pollution, such as from hydrocarbons and plastics (from both marine and terrestrial sources) also presents a threat and impacts multiple levels of the marine food web. It has been estimated that 8 million tonnes of plastic ends up in the marine environment every year, which makes up 80% of all marine debris found from surface waters to deep sea sediments (IUCN, 2018). Although most plastic waste comes from land-based sources, abandoned, lost and discarded shipping and fishing gear also adds to marine pollution). It has been estimated that at least 10% of plastic pollution comes from abandoned and lost fishing gear. The Global Ghost Gear Initiative estimates that at least 25,000 nylon nets are lost or abandoned each year. Whether discarded at sea or on land these nets end up in the ocean and persist for hundreds of years entangling marine animals eventually turning into microplastics.

Plastic pollution in the marine environment also has significant social and economic impacts with growing evidence that human health may also be impacted through ingestion of microplastics in water and food and related concerns about ingestion of toxins that can be absorbed by plastics and bio-accumulate in top-level predators such as tuna.

Many regions of ABNJ, e.g. Sargasso Sea, are within international shipping areas and crossed by a large number of vessels each year. Shipping presents a risk to marine life in ABNJ from disturbance from underwater noise and physical injuries, particularly vessel strikes on marine mammals but also from pollution from discharges, introduction of alien species through ballast water, and (in the case of the Sargasso Sea) physical damage to upper water marine vegetation (Sargassum mats).

Damage from submarine telecommunication cables and seabed exploration and mining can also pose a risk of pollution and direct damage to fragile seabed habitats, especially at species-rich hydrothermal vents and sea mounts. Whilst large scale commercial extraction of deep sea deposits is still some way off, potential impacts from future seabed mining are a growing concern given the rapid development of technology, increasing interest and investment in this industry, and a significant number of exploratory licenses that have already been issued by the International Seabed Authority (ISA). In addition to the direct physical destruction of deep sea biodiversity, waste plumes from seabed mineral extraction could constitute a risk and spread damage over a much larger area. The impact of bottom trawling on vulnerable marine ecosystems, which was previously highlighted as significant cause of damage to deep sea ecosystems, appears to be mitigated due to recent measures introduced by the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.

The above-mentioned threats are all exacerbated by adverse human-induced climate change impacts on the ecosystems and biodiversity of ABNJ. These include increased ocean warming, ocean acidification (due to absorption of carbon dioxide), changed ocean circulation patterns and currents and alterations in the vertical stratification of the water column, increasing hypoxic waters and oxygen-depleted dead zones, and there is some evidence of changes in nutrient cycling, primary production and changes in the distribution and abundance of marine life (IPCC, 2019). These changes are affecting marine ecosystems and organisms at multiple trophic levels, impacting fisheries with implications for food production and human communities. Climate change is expected to lead to a decrease in primary productivity in the tropics but a likely increase at higher latitudes. A recent study on the potential

impacts of climate change forecast marine animal biomass to decline by 15?30% in the North/ South Atlantic, North/South Pacific and Indian Ocean basins by 2100 while increasing by 20?80% in the polar Arctic and Southern Ocean basins with major changes in the distribution of fish stocks. Such changes would have important consequences for efforts to apply area-based tools for marine conservation at scale as well as for fisheries management and economics of fisheries.

The predicted redistribution of tuna from EEZs to high seas areas is also likely to result in a larger proportion of the catch being made in international waters (FAME, 2018), which would have economic and social consequences for some states, e.g. the economies of some Pacific island states which derive substantial revenue from tuna fishing license fees may be affected. These predicted impacts have implications for existing ABNJ governance and management, including monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities by the RFMOs, and management measures need to be updated to address the need for climate change adaptation responses. Specifically, climate change conditions could cause a 16% decrease in the biomass of albacore that is currently available in Fiji?s EEZs by the end of the century (Senina et al. 2018). The latter issues could present significant challenges to the effective management of tuna stocks in the Pacific, as well as to the fishing livelihoods in Fiji and in other Pacific Island countries that depend on access to tuna resources.

In some cases, climate change-induced shifts in fronts and currents may alter the biodiversity of an entire marine ecosystem. For instance, climate change is pushing the warm sub-tropical convergence in the south of the Sargasso Sea further north, which could impact the possible spread of Sargassum S. natans VIII, (a variant of Sargassum that supports less associated biodiversity than more common forms found in the Sargasso Sea) leading to changes in the composition and richness of biodiversity associated with the Sargasso Sea.

These threats, also described in the Common Oceans Programme Framework, have adverse socio-economic impacts, including potentially loss of livelihoods, growing inequalities, reduced contributions to national economies and GDP, as well as negative impacts on food security and human health. An additional concern is that climate change impacts could increase conflict between different ABNJ resource users (across and within sectors) as resources and their habitats decline and the potential for competition between States and sectors increases.

The global COVID-19 crisis has the potential indirectly to exacerbate many of these threats, by, for example:

- Leading to increased pressures on marine resources and ecosystems as part of recovery strategies following the economic impacts of the crisis (resulting both from the downturn and from the impact on Government budgetary resources of investments in healthcare and the mitigation of social impacts);
- More specifically, fishing, seen as a viable source of employment for low-skilled workers displaced by COVID 19 which may place pressure on some countries to expand their tuna fleets including moving further into the ABNJ and increasing effort in some fisheries;
- Resulting in decreased investment in sustainable marine and fisheries management, especially at regional and international levels, due to lockdowns, trade/food safety and security measures imposed by COVID-19, such as reduced levels of coverage for observer programs, monitoring control and surveillance, etc.

Root causes/drivers

Many of the threats outlined above have interrelated root causes and drivers. Some of these operate at the macro level, e.g. climate change, while others are more explicitly linked to specific sectors that can be addressed by the Program.

Expanding human populations (and increasing numbers of wealthier people) are driving increasing global, regional and national demand for living and non-living resources from the ABNJ, leading to high market prices for (and potential profit from) some ABNJ commodities, particularly fish. This, together with the open access nature of the high seas (under UNCLOS), has driven increased investment in commercial activities in ABNJ. In the fishing industry, this has resulted in adoption of more efficient harvesting technologies and over-capacity of fishing fleets in relation to some fish stocks which has contributed to overfishing and unsustainable fisheries in tuna RFMO convention areas (FAO 2010a; FAO 2010b). Further factors, such as inadequate postharvest infrastructure leads to quality deterioration and reduced revenues, exacerbating overfishing. Moreover, some commercial ABNJ fisheries may benefit from perverse incentives from their flag States that encourage overfishing and overinvestment (over 80% of fisheries subsidies went in the past to large scale industrial fisheries such as for fuel and new vessel construction which just enhance fishing capacity). Unfortunately, once overcapacity develops it is difficult to reduce because the fishing industry will continue to operate as long as profits exceed costs, and restrictive and difficult-to-implement quotas need to be agreed by RFMO member States to prevent overfishing.

Global demand, the advent of new technologies, new commercial opportunities and geo-political considerations are also driving recent interest and investment in the exploitation of new non-food resources from ABNJ, particularly marine genetic resources and biopharmaceuticals, along with mining of rare earth and other metals from the deep seas deposits for consumer electronics and ?green technologies?.

Barriers

There are a number of key barriers that prevent the above threats, root causes and drivers from being addressed effectively and hinder progress towards sustainable use of ABNJ resources . These can be grouped into four thematic areas:

There has been a lack of an effective enabling policy and legal environment to transition to sustainable use of ABNJ resources. In some sectors, and especially fisheries, policies and incentives have tended to promote largely short-term economic development and investment planning, favoring unsustainable practices in the exploitation of ABNJ, and a low rate of implementation of regulations managing the sustainable harvesting of ABNJ resources.

Managing the oceans requires a strong international legal framework that is incorporated into national regulations but not all RFMO member countries have fully integrated international obligations and best practices into their legislation.

Despite improvements in recent years, including through the actions of the GEF-5 ABNJ Program, the situation remains characterised by weak fisheries governance, including in many cases unclear national fisheries policy and obsolete fisheries legislation that do not reflect current international obligations and need updating and existing regulations that do not fully incorporate modern tools for fisheries management.

The legal framework for fisheries management in the ABNJ is provided primarily by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). These are inter-governmental organizations that, following UNCLOS guidance, represent countries with a real interest in managing resources that are entirely in the ABNJ or that straddle ABNJ and national waters. RFMO member States, following scientific advice, adopt joint conservation and management binding measures to manage resources and to mitigate any collateral environmental damage arising from the fishing operations. However, RFMOs tend to be dominated by just a few (usually the larger) member States and there is a need for many coastal and flag States to play a more active role within the RFMOs, particularly in the decision-making processes, for which capacity of the national authorities needs to be strengthened.

There is sometimes a lack of harmonization of fisheries regulations between neighbouring countries or between EEZ fisheries and those in ABNJ which makes management of straddling or migratory stocks (such as tuna) less effective. In addition, there is often weak integration between fisheries and environmental policies at the national level that generates diverging positions in global forums over ABNJ issues in some countries.

Although the performance of RFMOs (measured, for instance, in terms of compliance, transparency of data, adoption of Conservation Management Measures), has been improving in recent years (as evidenced in RFMO Performance Reviews), there are still weaknesses in regional fisheries management. These include incomplete processes for, and implementation of, the precautionary approach (as described in UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) and Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)) through the use of harvest strategies/management procedures in management actions (expressed for instance through the adoption of harvest control rules) or uneven levels of compliance with the RFMO adopted measures, especially among developing States.

Frameworks that create incentives that promote overfishing also represent a barrier and need to be addressed. The same applies to incentives to deter illegal activities or encourage compliant behaviour in ABNJ, encourage greater private sector investment in seeking solutions to mitigate fisheries impacts, uptake of technological innovation or link with new market arrangements that could reward sustainable management and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ. Together these contribute to weak political engagement in encouraging effecting sustainable fishing.

There is a particular shortage of innovative financing arrangements, such as non-grant instruments, impact bonds, etc, that could either attract new investment to finance large-scale uptake of best practices to transition to sustainable use and management of ABNJ. Fisheries value chains are also poorly understood in some cases (especially for deep-sea fisheries) and are not efficient at promoting sustainable ABNJ products. Efforts to improve sustainability and benefits tend to focus on only one part of the market chain, e.g. the fishing/harvesting, postharvest activities or markets, meaning that opportunities to create added value are not sufficiently seized. At the global scale, although there have been improvements, poor traceability and transparency continue to allow illegally caught fish to enter the market and therefore there are hence limited incentives to deter such activities. Whilst there are some market platforms/institutions to bring key actors, including businesses, together to encourage them to transition to sustainable practices, such as the International Sustainable Seafood Foundation (ISSF) for tuna fisheries, more need to be developed and promoted.

While there has been some improvement in fisheries management capacity in recent years, there is still insufficient institutional and individual capacity in some of the countries participating in the fisheries to

effectively implement sustainable fisheries management measures. These include a lack of capacity in fisheries research, inadequate collective/coordinated MCS systems that result in a continuing lack of compliance with adopted regulations and poor capacity to strengthen value chains to prevent penetration of IUU fishery products. There is also insufficient capacity to effectively and consistently apply an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM ? see Box 4) in ABNJ, and limited capacity to respond to changing environmental conditions at national level, in particular, for developing coastal States. For instance, climate change is not yet in most of the RFMO agendas and there is insufficient monitoring and support for adaptation strategies in developing countries, despite concerns that this is likely to significantly impact the economics and management of fisheries in the long term.

There is no clear consensus about what constitutes an effective implementation of the ecosystem approach in the supra-national management context of RFMOs. While there have been steps taken to protect some of the most vulnerable species of seabirds, marine turtles and sharks from fisheries related impacts, there are technical questions as to the effectiveness of managing on the basis of ecosystem models. On the social and economic dimensions, RFMO member States have multiple and at times divergent policy goals, so no single policy can be adopted. However, information can be provided to the member States about the consequences of proposed management actions so that they can project the impact on their domestic communities.

There is also a particular need to improve the capacity to enforce existing regulations in ABNJ as well as greater efforts to tackle IUU fishing in some countries and regions. Although efforts to address IUU fishing, notably of tuna, have had some success in recent years, including through major efforts under the GEF-5 program, there is a clear need for stronger compliance verification mechanisms and Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems and improved capacity to use them to improve control of fishing activities, including port State controls to prevent entry of IUU products into the supply chain and markets.

Another major barrier to effective fisheries management is limited knowledge of key scientific and technical issues to feed into management decision-making. For instance, there are limited data on some key fish stocks and the quality of some of the data reported to FAO is not judged satisfactory; social and economic aspects of ABNJ resource use are poorly known; and there are significant gaps in knowledge on ABNJ ecosystems (including resident, endemic and migratory species, biodiversity and habitat interactions). The cumulative impacts of human activities on deep sea ecosystems and ecological connectivity between coastal waters and ABNJ are particularly poorly understood, which underlines the need for complementary actions in both spaces. Poorly understood fish stocks present a particular problem in deep sea fisheries - a 2016 survey of 51 targeted and fished deep-sea stocks in the high seas classified the status of 50% of them was ?unknown? . Consequently, there is still a need to improve the collection and availability of information with more innovative data collection methods to improve monitoring and assessment, and support more effective science-based decision-making. It is particularly important to reduce existing uncertainties, although these should not be an impediment to make management decisions based on a precautionary approach.

In terms of other efforts to apply EAFM, management measures to reduce bycatch and waste and direct damage to fishing habitats have been introduced in some cases, although the extent of fishing impacts on some bycatch species are still largely unknown, particularly for slow-growing bycatch species, such as deepwater sharks . Even when responsible fishing measures are identified there may be insufficient capacity to properly implement them. For instance, Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs), which are

areas closed to bottom fisheries to eliminate impacts, have been identified in some deep sea areas, but these are much better developed and enforced in some regions than others.

Similarly, whilst there has been some uptake of innovative technologies and best practices to support management for sustainable utilization of ABNJ resources in recent years, such as deployment of electronic monitoring systems (EMS), use of biodegradable materials in Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in tuna fisheries, and other technological research to reduce bycatch by the fisheries sector, adoption is still far from complete and needs further promotion and upscaling.

At the global level, no State, organization or institution has the overall management responsibility for ABNJ. Also, at present there is no internationally agreed coordinating mechanism to agree and implement collaborative and coherent multi-sector governance for sustainable utilization of resources and conservation of biodiversity in ABNJ among users from multiple sectors in the ABNJ environment, and a lack of appropriate shared forums and frameworks to discuss common issues.

Current approaches to combating overuse and degradation in ABNJ are fragmented, with no common prioritization and limited collaboration or coordination on management actions, which are usually addressed on a narrow, single-sector basis with little communication between sectors. This creates ?silos? with the different sectors, actors and initiatives, e.g. Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), International Seabed Authority (ISA), RFMOs, International Maritime Organization (IMO), Regional Seas Programs (RSPs) and Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) projects, generally operate in isolation. Moreover, there is no capacity among these global and regional bodies and their respective member countries for cooperation and coordination. Consequently, resource governance and management in ABNJ is not integrated and tends to be ineffective with little if any multi-sectoral planning. For example, the lack of cross-sectoral coordination in the context of marine spatial planning (MSP) means there is limited bridging of biodiversity conservation, fisheries management and extractive industry (minerals, hydrocarbons) objectives, and little if any consideration of cumulative impacts.

The situation is compounded by poor knowledge of ecosystem elements and processes in ABNJ and poor understanding of the impacts of one sector?s activities on other sectors or the needs and challenges faced by individual sectors. To further complicate matters, the mandates, roles and responsibilities of the various sectoral management bodies and initiatives involved in the governance of ABNJ are, in some cases, unclear or overlap or poorly understood by other actors operating in ABNJ.

This division between sectors is also reflected at the national scale where government development, fisheries and environment agencies tend to have different priorities and approaches in relation to ABNJ and often lack a common, coordinated position in international policy making forums.

Together these contribute to a lack of multi-sector thinking and a lack of overall integrated, coordinated cross-sectoral adaptive management for ABNJ. The current situation argues for a clear need for institutional processes and arrangements that allow for and support cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination for sustainable use of ABNJ (including building capacity to support these).

The ongoing negotiations under the auspices of the UN General Assembly to elaborate an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (also known as the BBNJ process), once finalized, will play a key role in regulating the sustainable use of BBNJ and addressing these concerns. However, some States will be challenged in participating in this process or in fulfilling their role in the

management of the BBNJ and will require additional capacity to become effective players under the new agreement.

The ABNJ is remote and, as a consequence, it has with low public and political awareness. Few people have direct experience of the high seas. Consequently, the general public has limited knowledge and understanding of the economic, social and environmental values of the biodiversity and ecosystem services provided by ABNJ and the challenges these areas face. Even in coastal States where the economic and ecological connectivity between coastal waters and high seas regions demands joint policies and actions in some cases (e.g. to address straddling fish stocks and migratory species) awareness is generally poor. If individuals are informed, they tend to be familiar with some of the threats facing the ABNJ e.g. marine plastics (largely due to recent television documentaries highlighting ocean threats and wildlife) but have less knowledge of potential solutions to address the threats or how to support them, or even sustainably sourced ABNJ products. Consequently, direct public support for coordinated, integrated actions to address the myriad threats facing ABNJ and move towards sustainable use of ABNJ resources is generally weak and has little influence on political decision-makers. Similarly, potential private sector investors are poorly informed of investment opportunities to promote more responsible use of ABNJ.

In addition, although the values of the ABNJ can be substantial, especially for tuna fisheries, political decision makers at national, regional and global levels often do not recognize these resources as an economic asset or the potential of the sector as a contributor to livelihoods, food security and environmental health. Consequently, there is a clear need to improve political interest to ensure greater support for measures to move towards sustainability in ABNJ.

Outreach and awareness-raising is not helped by the lack of effective ?stories? to communicate the challenges and solutions to sustainable utilization in the ABNJ, certainly when compared with similar challenges and responses to threats facing terrestrial systems (e.g. ?save the rainforest? narratives).

Knowledge management generally is a challenge due to limited availability of information (often held by different bodies which do not readily share or communicate information), lack of effective knowledge management platforms and e-learning opportunities, and weak knowledge management systems and mechanisms. There is a need to encourage active exchange of lessons learned and success stories across regional management initiatives, and the identification and dissemination of positive experiences that could be replicated and upscaled across the ABNJ space. This has been some of the lessons learned during the GEF-5 Common Oceans ABNJ Program, in which experiences at the regional level were to achieve global changes.

b. The baseline scenario and any associated baseline Programs

The baseline situation governing the use and management of living natural resources in the ABNJ has shifted over the intervening years since the GEF-5 Program was approved although the same international frameworks are currently still valid.

Human activities in ABNJ are governed under the framework of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982), to which 168 countries are a party (around 86% of countries in the world), together with specialized international agreements related to particular activities, such as fisheries and shipping. UNCLOS require States to cooperate for the conservation and management of living resources in the high seas. In addition, 90 countries, representing 46% of countries in the world, are party to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA, 1995), which provides the framework for the conservation and management of fisheries resources. Some sectoral uses of ABNJ are governed at the global scale by UN specialized UN agencies, such as shipping (governed by the International Maritime Organization or IMO) or deep-sea mining (the International Seabed Authority or ISA). Fisheries are governed, in practice, at the regional scale by States cooperatively managing the high seas fishery and resources through Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) which serve as a forum for scientific exchange and decision making.

There are ongoing negotiations at the UN to develop an implementing agreement under UNCLOS that would address gaps in use and conservation of biodiversity in the ABNJ, as well as the lack of coordination among sectoral initiatives to address cumulative anthropogenic impacts. The UN General Assembly has held three of four meetings to negotiate the text, however, final text of the agreement has been significantly delayed due to the covid-19 pandemic, with the fourth and possibly final meeting delayed to sometime in the first half of 2022. There has been an online inter-sessional programme of work for member states with various workstreams including ?Relationship with relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies? and ?Modalities for capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology?. Draft text from these workstreams is currently not available. These delays due to the pandemic will impact the progress in completing the BBNJ process, including articulating institutional and coordination arrangements, funding mechanism(s) and capacity building programmes.

Within this framework, the Global Coordination Project (GCP) will build on an extensive baseline including hte first Common Ocean programme, which established an overall baseline regarding knowledge management, communication, outreach and capacity building on which to further strengthen GEF support to the above UN process and to better manage the use and conservation of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

Knowledge management and Communication baseline

As noted above, initiatives to improve the use and conservation of BBNJ are recent, and it is only now that experiences and models of sustainable use are emerging and now is the time to collate, analyze and share lessons learned effectively in a coherent, coordinated and consistent way among stakeholders including civil society. Several intergovernmental mechanisms and institutions are active in this regard. The UNEP, WCMC and GRID Arendal, IW-Learn, the Global Ocean Forum, World Resources Institute and others maintain knowledge hubs at global scales for a range of ocean data including marine protected areas, seabed mapping and other relevant data sets. In addition here are five tuna RFMOs and eight deep-sea RFMOs, all of them potential partners in the ABNJ program, covering more than 90 countries. All RFMOs have regional knowledge sharing hubs and active mechanisms to collect and process data to enable science-based decision making. The Regional Fishery Body (RFB) Secretariats Network (RSN) and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) facilitate information exchange and collaboration on common issues among the Secretariats of different RFB

(more than 50 exists) as wll as RSCAPs (18 exists) and LMEs respectively, and more recently coordination and collaboration between RFBs and Regional Seas Organizations (e.g. GFCM and MAP; NEAFC and OSPAR) on matters of common interest.

Outreach baseline:

Much of the outreach for improved use and conservation of biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions has been driven by the previous GEF Common Oceans ABNJ programme and a few institutions including UN organizations, and much of it focused on the intergovernmental meetings of the BBNJ process. Much of the outreach targeting civil society, especially outside of the BBNJ process was ad-hoc and not well coordinated. These efforts improved the understanding of the importance of ABNJ and its resources among stakeholders involved in the BBNJ process. However, there is still limited awareness of the importance of ABNJ among civil society, many parts of the private sector not directly active in ABNJ and the finance sector. This is beginning to change with rapidly growing concern about marine plastic pollution and other threats from anthropogenic sources. An improved understanding of the ABNJ among the general public will contribute to strengthening political support, while for investors it will help to close the funding gap needed for better use and management of the ABNJ and its resources.

Capacity building baseline:

The capacity building needs of key stakeholders involved in the BBNJ process was assessed through the support of GEF5 Capacity Building Project and identified as a priority area for development during the second phase. The Regional Leaders Forum was established under the Capacity Building Project of the first phase of the Program and proved to be effective in improving participants understanding of key BBNJ issues, the BBNJ process and of their role in negotiations. This Forum targeted primarily conservation related stakeholders, missing key participants from the as fisheries, seabed mining and genetic resources areas. In the previous GEF project there was considerable capacity building but little coordination and cross-fertilization of learning. This in part reflected the need for better coordination and cooperation in capacity building where there are common interests for better use of resources but also to enrich the learning experience through diversity of interests and experiences in BBNJ. Continuing to building capacity in silos will continue to limit the participation of these stakeholders and consequently the capacities of participant as well as the richness and diversity of the discussions during BBNJ negotiations.

The Tuna and Deep Sea project of the previous GEF project delivered targeted capacity building to improve RFMO performance in many areas of EAFM. For example, modelling using climate-change projections along with economic analysis, conducted under the Common Oceans-OPP project indicated that the redistribution of Pacific tuna biomass could cause a total annual loss in fishing licence revenue across the region of at least $60 million (at today?s prices) and losses of up to 15% in total government revenue each year, by 2050 (FAO, 2019). These results were shared widely in numerous global and regional climate and fisheries forums.

Private sector baseline:

The UN Global Compact (UNGC), which is the world?s largest corporate sustainability initiative calling on the private sector to do business in alignment with broad societal goals such as the UN SDGs

and ten principles on human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. As part of this effort the UNGC has formed an Ocean Stewardship Coalition which serves to engage the busness community in advancing the Sustainable Ocean Principles, the 2030 Agenda, ocean-based climate action and scaling up blue finance. There are several other global private sector-focused efforts designed to advance sustainability in the ocean including the Economist Ocean Summit, the Sustainable Shipping Initiative, the World Ocean Council, and the Sustainable Blue Finance Principles. All of these have relevance to ABNJ.

With regard to the seafood sector, during the past decade, major retailers in many developed countries have sent strong demand signals to their suppliers who in turn pressure/support fishers to adopt sustainable production practices, and NGOs have helped support these market-driven improvement efforts. Marine conservation advocates continue to see this approach as critical to transitioning entire seafood commodities to sustainable management practices. Marine Stewardship Council certification of individual fisheries however has been slow at transitioning production towards sustainability, with only 26% of wild tuna being certified under international standards or rated as ?green? or ?yellow? by Seafood Watch (Certifications and Ratings Collaboration 2021). Additionally, it creates the condition for bright spots ? certified fishers that operate alongside non-certified actors, weakening the value proposition of investing in sustainability among the broader catching sector and limiting the impact of these sustainability initiatives. Major retailers are increasingly recognizing the limitations of the fishery improvement process for driving impact at the scale needed to end overfishing, and associated impacts on habitat and biodiversity. Limited coordination to-date between private-sector commitments to sustainability and government actions to drive policy reform has contributed to limiting success in securing environmental sustainability and social responsibility in key ABNJ fisheries. At the same time, the seafood industry is exploring other dimensions of sustainability including social/labor dimensions and their contribution to GHG emissions.

The overall baseline scenario described above is embedded in the theory of change under section 3, which illustrates how this scenario relates to the alternative scenario in the proposed project and is sufficiently robust to support the incremental reasoning of the expected GEF intervention. In this regard, the proposed project will leverage the outcomes of the associated baseline projects described above, stimulating in turn transformational change.

c. The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project and the project?s Theory of Change

Value added of the Global Coordination Project (GCP)

The GCP (GEF ID 10626) will enable the programmatic approach to deliver added value in terms of effectiveness, sustainability and scale at global and regional levels, as well as distributing synthesized knowledge generated by the projects to the larger group of beneficiaries of the Program.

This programmatic value-added will be generated through the delivery of the three components of the GCP that respond to the project-specific barriers noted above:

- **Component 1** will deliver programmatic value added by ensuring efficient programme-wide coordination and monitoring of the projects, and ensures coherence and consistency among all

child projects included in the program, while also being responsible for facilitating collaborative engagement by relevant entities (institutions, networks, etc.) that could place a major role in advancing transformational change. In this component an M&E system will be established using standard methods and incorporating child project M&E results and program-level indicators, to guide adaptive program management and reporting including program-wide contributions to GEF-7 core indicators and SDGs. This component will seek to generate synergies between projects, resulting in increases in cumulative impacts, and limit the risk of duplication or conflicts.

- **Component 2** will focus on knowledge management, communication and outreach and capacity building, through consistent and innovative online tools, and together these will contribute to child project effectiveness. This component will ensure projects respond to and share lessons learned regionally and globally, findings from cutting edge science and best practices, and facilitate links to regional and global knowledge hubs such as the Ocean Action Hub, Oceanhub.org and RevOcean. It will also contribute to sustained uptake and scaling out of impacts, by ensuring that lessons learned through the child projects are collated and analyzed, disseminated into national, regional and global knowledge hubs with a focus on target stakeholders.

- **Component 3** will focus on enabling the private sector to engage and invest in collective action to address ?global? or ?ABNJ wide? sustainability issues. Without a better understanding of the opportunities, risks and ways to mitigate these risks provided by this component, many private sector players will be reluctant to explore investing in the sector despite their interest in contributing to the SDG goals. This component will also further test models/approaches/incentives including innovative financing tested (including Bond, Trust Fund, global lottery, impact investment) and risk mitigation measures for better private sector engagement and investment in addressing ABNJ-wide issues. The PPG phase will be used to further explore and identify appropriate private sector instruments for development. Without identification of, and guidance on, suitable models and approaches, much of the private sector will be reluctant to engage.

The GCP will play a key supporting role in complement to the topic-specific child projects that make up the remainder of the investment in the Common Oceans ABNJ Program. In the ABNJ, sectors are often narrowly focused geographically but with the potential for localized impacts such as seabed mining and deepsea fishing. Just as it is important that the different sectors to coordinate and collaborate and where possible integrate actions, it is important that interventions in the Common Ocean Program reflect these needs to coordinate and collaborate as well to deliver an effective and efficient Program (Figure 1).

Therefore, added value of the GCP in relation to the Common Ocean ABNJ Program (GEF ID 10548)) and its child projects includes:

- Deepening and amplifying the results ?on the water? from the child projects through supporting harmonised approaches on communication, knowledge management, outreach and system-wide capacity development;

- Contributing to improved investment by the private sector in sustainable use and conservation of BBNJ.

- Ensuring that child project investments are effectively coordinated, and creating synergies where possible;

- Creating conditions to enable Common Oceans approaches, models and impacts to be scaled out and up at regional and global levels.

The child projects will deliver valuable outputs in their respective sectors and the Global Coordination Project is the thread that brings together the common outputs of the child projects (Table 2) allowing them to have the maximum impact to achieve the Program outcomes. The GCP will maximize these Program and project efficiencies through:

- Coordination and identification of possibilities for direct collaboration between child projects, especially for common outputs;
- Communication, knowledge management, capacity building on shared issues are coordinated and synergized to ensure cost effectiveness.
- Since duplication of efforts is avoided, the benefits of coordinating and identification of possible joint work planning include efficient use of resources.

Table 2: Coordination Project linkages.

Project Elements	Tuna	Deep Sea	Cross-Sectoral	Sargasso Sea
Governance	X	X	X	X
MCS/enforcement	X	X		X
Ecosystem Approach	X	X	X	X
Ecosystem valuation				X
Biodiversity/environmental impacts	X	X		X
Cross-sectoral arrangements		X	X	X
Climate change	X	X		X
Knowledge sharing	X	X	X	X
Communication	X	X	X	X
Capacity Building	X	X	X	X
Private Sector investments	X	X		

Theory of Change

The Common Ocean ABNJ Program framework and theory of change (Figure 1) focus on four areas: governance and management which includes frameworks, processes and incentives; implementation of the ecosystem approach; capacity to coordinate and engage in multi-sectoral processes; and knowledge and information sharing.

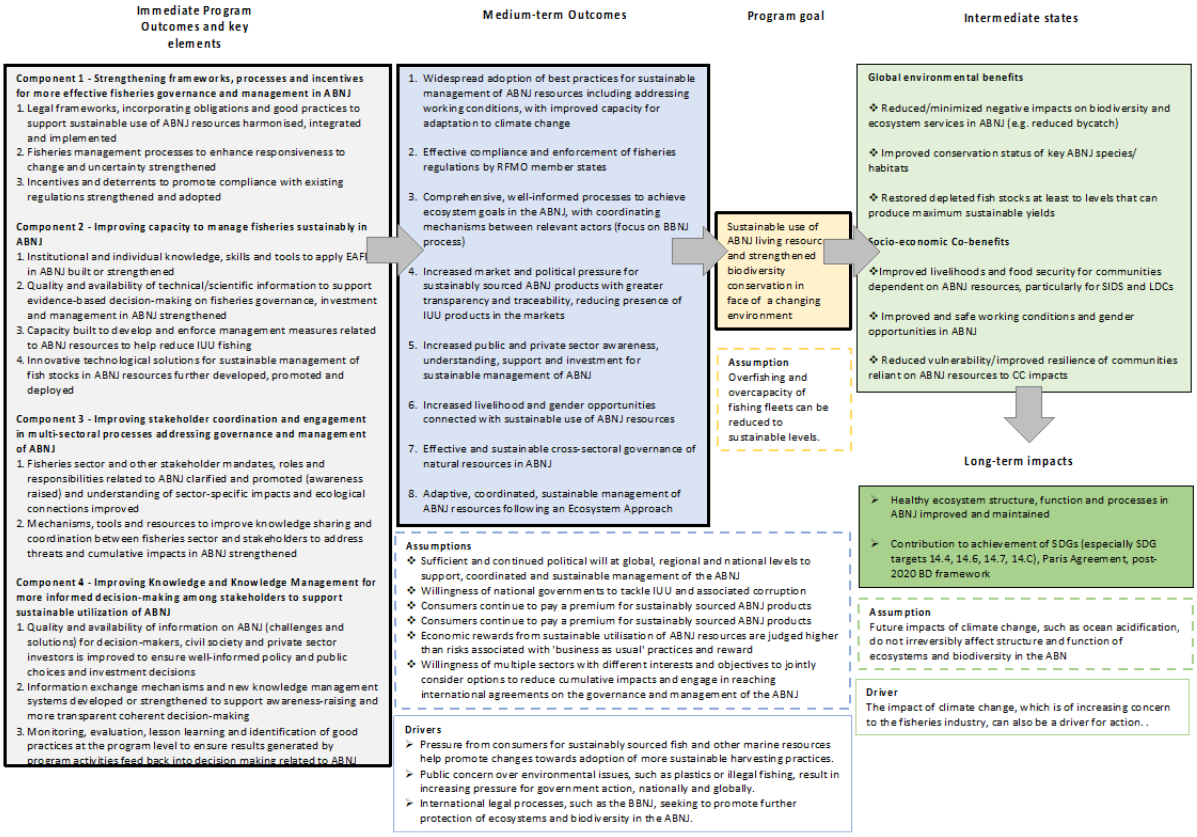

Figure 1. Theory of Change for the Common Oceans ABNJ Program

The GCP Theory of Change (Figure 2) uses the same logic to the program as a whole: knowledge, experiences and best practices, generated at project level, and identified as relevant to broader audiences identified will be managed and shared at regional and global levels to maximize up scaling and promote uptake and replication. Private sector partnerships at the project level will be prioritized on best available information to maximize impact and cost-effectiveness; investments will be coordinated to maximize synergies; and facilitated interactions with regional and global stakeholders, of common interests across the projects, will be facilitated.

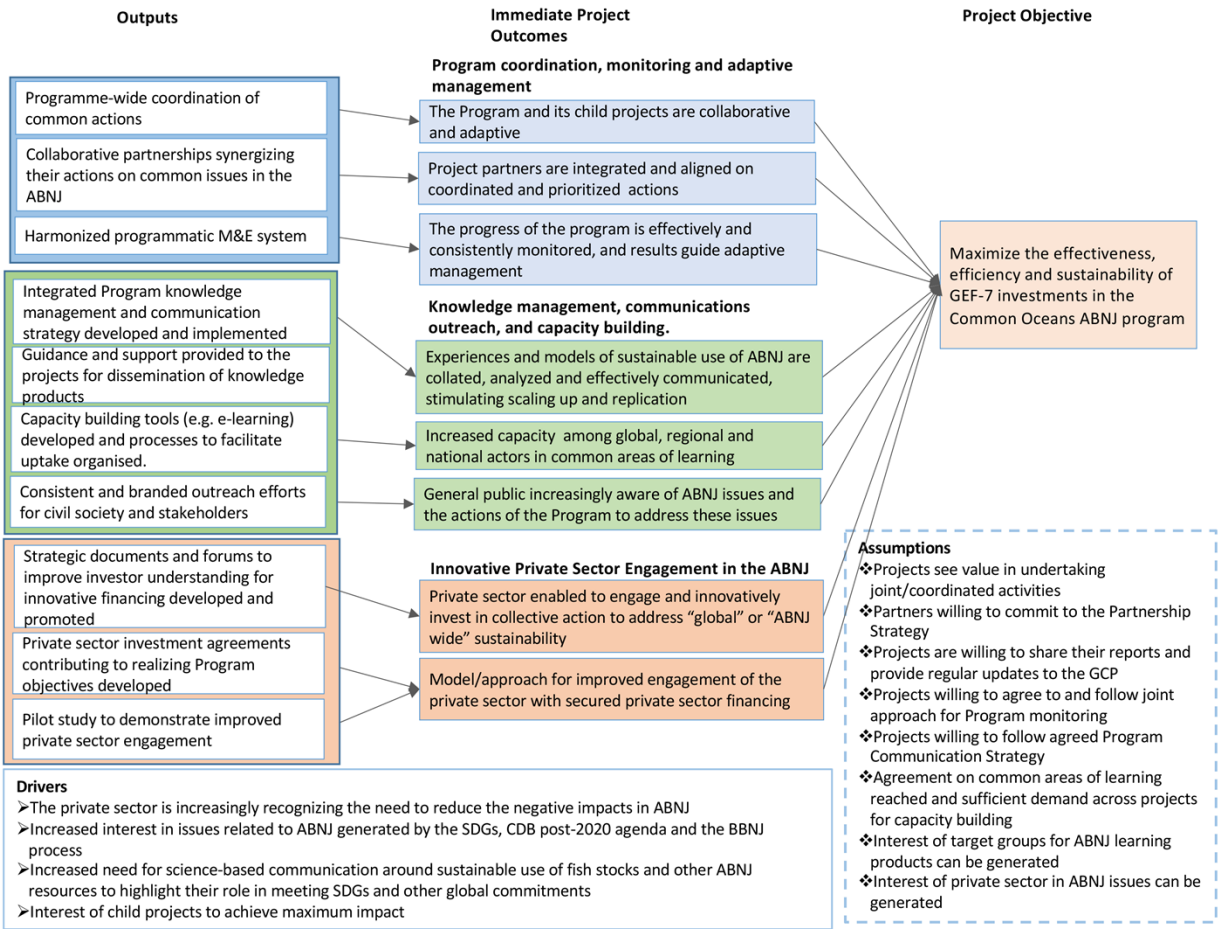

Figure 2. Theory of Change for the Global Coordination Project

The first group of key immediate outcomes identified in the ToC focuses on achieving an effective coordination and communication among projects. This will ensure that the child projects can explore possibilities of synergic activities that enhance the impact over individual activities, via adaptive management to adjust to newly identified situations. The coordination efforts also extend to the engagement with individual partners. Also part of the smooth functioning of the GCP and, by extension, of the Common Oceans Programme, is the establishment of an effective M&E system to track both the progress of the GCP in its goals, and also to track the delivery of the programmatic outcomes.

The second group of outcomes focuses on the processing of information generated independently by the child projects to extract programmatic lessons learned, and the steps to ensure that that processed knowledge reaches the programmatic and the project-level audiences in a consistently branded manner. This guidance and activities are achieved through the implementation of an agreed Knowledge Management and Communications strategy, reaching wide audiences at the Program level Therefore, the GCP, through its component 2, will play a key role in the overall synthesis of output and outcome results across the four child projects for the production of global knowledge products and in the coordination of dissemination mechanisms.. The GCP will also serve as a provider of online capacity

building to centralize and harmonize online learning materials, providing a service to the technical projects. This set of outcomes address the realization that the general public still has misconceptions about the situation in the ABNJ that might limit the political will for concerted action in addressing global commitements.

The third group of outcomes recognize the value and the increasing interest of the private sector in engaging in the ABNJ, and the need to promote and expand on the engagement of the private sector on the work towards sustainability. The capability for innovation of the private sector will be further supported by raising the visibility of existing initiatives and promoting new ideas that could lead to private-public partnerships supporting sustainable, multi-sectoral utilization.

This project will ensure there is communication and coordination among projects. Each Project will generate knowledge and information, some of which will be common across the projects and in some cases it may overlap. The GCP will play a key role in the overall synthesis of output and outcome results across the four child projects for the production of global knowledge products and in the coordination of dissemination mechanisms. Specifically the project will play its key coordinating role through 3 components.

Project Components, Outcomes and Outputs

Component 1: Coordination, monitoring and adaptive management

Outcome 1.1 The Program and its child projects (including participating partners) are collaborative and adaptive, through an effective and synergistic programme.

Effective Program coordination, monitoring and adaptive management will be enabled through creating and maintaining a partnership among the child projects and stakeholders, underpinned by a Coordination Strategy that the implementing and executing agencies of the child projects will agree to, enabling the GCP to support the coordination among child projects as well as facilitate collaboration and integration.

These coordination efforts will be centered around a fluid exchange of information among the four technical projects, mediated by the GCP-enabled Program Coordination Unit. The Program Coordination Unit (see Figure 1 in the institutional arrangement and coordination section of the Portal), will be based in FAO, as the latter is the Executing Agency, and will :

- Organize and facilitate exchange of information among the child projects about their progress, including outcomes and activities being conducted at a frequency that will be discussed and agreed by the projects.
- Collate information on indicators of progress toward the achievement of programmatic goals according to a programmatic logframe to be developed in consultation with all projects.

A total of six meetings per year are anticipated, but the frequency will depend on the needs and opportunites to be assessed by the PCU in consultation with projects, to keep a reasonable load of meetings for the projects. For practical, economical and environmental reasons, it is proposed that the coordination meetings are conducted remotely, online.

Output 1.1.1 Programme-wide coordination of actions that are common to two or more child-projects to ensure they are consistent and cohesive.

The GCP will assist in the identification of possible opportunities for cooperation among two or more projects, including including the joint conduct of planned activities, shared knowledge products or participation in joint capacity building exercises with the purpose delivering with increased efficiency on the desired results. This will be done by working with the management units of the projects, with candidates to be discussed at the coordination meetings. Annex L demonstrates an example of such activities identified during the design phase between the Tuna and the Deep Sea projects. It is proposed that the agenda of the coordination meetings includes permanently an item on this matter.

Outcome 1.2 Project partners, integrated and aligned on coordinated and prioritized actions, where appropriate, to increase effectiveness of the interventions at Program and Child Project levels.

Output 1.2.1 Collaborative partnerships synergizing their actions on common issues in the ABNJ following an agreed partnership strategy.

The GCP will work with the agencies and partners across the Program and projects to develop, where possible, complementary activities on common issues so as to amplify possible impacts, combining expertise and lessons learned, working according to some basic principles to be discussed in a partnership strategy if necessary.

The key objective here is to provide partnerships and activities from external and internal partners with a stronger ability to contribute to the programs impacts by not working in isolation. For example, regionally, large marine ecosystem (LME) projects increasingly recognize the connectivity between coastal waters and the ABNJ. The LME experiences are valuable and they supplement other approaches and models for cross-sectoral coordination of the sustainable use of ABNJ such as the Sustainable Oceans Initiative (SOI), the UN Ocean Compact and the World Ocean Council. These last two are cross-sectoral efforts that are focused on the private sector awareness and engagement. Communication and knowledge sharing efforts of this GCP and the relevant child projects will capitalize on these links where appropriate and relevant.

Outcome 1.3 The progress of the program is effectively and consistently monitored, and the results guide adaptive management of the Program.

A full description of the Monitoring and Evaluation approach is included in section 9 of this document. Monitoring & Evaluation will be conducted on two levels:

- Monitor and report on the progress and performance of the GCP as an effective mechanism for coordination according to the Logical Framework described in Annex A.
- Monitor and reports on the progress of the Program towards its programmatic goals, on the basis of an analysis of the progress reported by the individual projects. There is not a programmatic Results Framework yet, and one will have to be identified and agreed at the Inception Workshop.

The results of both levels of M&E will be shared and reviewed with the GSC members to inform possible required changes in the conduct of the GCP, or to identify unexpected challenges impeding the progress towards one or more of the programmatic goals.

Output 1.3.1 Harmonized programmatic M&E system to guide adaptive program management and reporting.

To facilitate the exchange of information on the progress among the child projects, a harmonized system will be proposed, to the extent possible, along the lines of the description in section 9. This will be done while not interfering with existing M&E systems in implementing and executings agencies of the other projects, as the intention is not to bring additional reporting styles and obligations, but to find a system that allows to extract the maximum amount of common information from the existing M&E systems.

As it has been the case during the first phase, the programmatic M&E expert will be available to assist the child projects if so required.

Component 2: Knowledge management, communication, and outreach and capacity building for effective and integrated us of the ABNJ.

A complete description of the approach for this component is presented in Section 8. Under this Component, three essential GCP functions will be implemented:

- The production and dissemination of knowledge products that, on the basis of the inputs from the child projects, extract and synthesize the lessons learned from a programmatic point of view, highlighting the contributions towards achieving Program?s goals, as well as increasing awareness of the issues affecting the ABNJ;
- The dissemination of communications on the activities of the various projects, as well as activities from partners and external initiatives that are relevant to the Program;
- Preparation of material for capacity building, especially online material through the facilities of the FAO e-learning

Outcome 2.1 Experiences and models of sustainable use of ABNJ are collated, analyzed and effectively communicated, stimulating scaling up and replication.

Output 2.1.1 Integrated Program KM and Communication (KMC) Strategy developed and implemented with common messaging and guidance for coordinated, consistent and harmonized dissemination of knowledge.

The Program will develop a robust Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy (KMCS) at the outset of the program, with participation of all Program partners to showcase and upscale results, lessons and best practices. The KMCS will function as the essential reference for all Program KM and

communication activities and falls under the umbrella of Program Component 4. It will underpin, guide and support the generation, dissemination and application of information and knowledge from the Program, set out a common analytical framework to organize and analyze information gathered by the different child projects, collect and share best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions to ABNJ issues across the Program, and ensure that key target audiences are kept informed of the Program and individual child project objectives, activities and achievements.

The KMCS will build on acknowledged best practices widely employed by FAO, such as the Knowledge Sharing Toolkit[1][1] and be in line with the principles of the FAO Knowledge Strategy (2011) and GEF?s Knowledge Management strategy and associated guidance[2][2], as well as recent experiences of other FAO-GEF programs where knowledge management and communications have had a significant focus, including the FAO-GEF Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI). At the same time it will encourage innovative approaches (particularly related to digital media).

The Program and its child projects will generate new knowledge for improving sustainable management of ABNJ resources. Specific contributions include new information on ABNJ ecosystems and associated species such as deep sea fish stocks and deep-water sharks, improved understanding of the impacts of human activities (particularly fishing and mining) on ABNJ habitats (especially cumulative impacts). In the case of the Sargasso Sea, for instance, information arising from the Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis, existing monitoring and time-series data collection and information on the effects from impacts that are already being measured will provide a baseline of ?knowledge?. This will then aid in identifying a list of gaps in knowledge and information for the Sargasso Sea area and its biological, chemical and physical status and interactions along with a road-map for filling the priority gaps that directly influence decisions for effective stewardship guidance and decision-making.

Output 2.1.2 Guidance and support provided to the projects for consistent and harmonized dissemination of knowledge products that capture lessons learned. Consolidation of lessons learned across the Program into a narrative of the programmatic impacts.

The role of the GCP is central to the implementation of the KMCS as it will capture, present and communicate results, experiences and lessons learned both among the child projects (as a support to their adaptive management), and to external audiences in consistent and accessible formats. Essentially it acts as the coordinator and conduit for information flow coming into and out of the Program with a coherent, coordinated program-wide lesson learning process that will ensure that lessons learned through the individual child projects are collected, collated and analyzed and disseminated among child projects and to program partners, other stakeholders and national, regional and global knowledge hubs. The program-level KMCS and those of the individual child projects will be co-designed and implemented with partners in a comprehensive collaborative fashion approach to ensure the best possible generation and leveraging of knowledge resources at all levels across the Program, and contributing to the added value of the Program?s programmatic approach.

In addition, the GCP will provide KM and communication ?support services? to the individual child projects such as customized training and technical assistance on knowledge management, outreach and

communications to child project implementation teams and common learning areas such as shared training on MCS between the Tuna and Deep Sea projects. These may include support for the development of effective communication materials to strengthen the enabling environment (under Component 1); specific KM services to technical elements of child projects (mostly under Component 2) depending on the needs of individual child projects; support in communications for building cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination processes (Component 3); and effective messaging and narratives for raising awareness among civil society and decision-makers (under Component 4). These will be fully defined during the PPG phase.

Outcome 2.2 Increased capacity among global, regional and national actors in common areas of learning (e.g. ecosystem approach, natural capital assessment, climate change, monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) communication).

Output 2.2.1 Capacity building tools (e.g. e-learning) developed and processes to facilitate their uptake among key actors organized.

Targeted training (workshops, e-learning, etc) will be undertaken at program or project level (with GCP support if requested) to build capacity to ensure these can be effectively employed and delivered, particularly in areas where current capacity is considered weak, such as knowledge management systems and effective communications tools.

The GCP will assist the child projects with a connection to the FAO e-learning Academy (see Box 1) that provides a number of services for the development of online knowledge management and capacity building tools. Apart from the ability to deploy multi-language course and online material on relevant topics, the e-learning tools will allow to promote certification-based capacity building that can build a career path for officers in developing countries, and provide additional access to gender-equality material.

Outcome 2.3 General public increasingly aware of ABNJ issues and the actions of the Program to address these issues.

Output 2.3.1 Consistent and branded outreach for civil society and stakeholders of knowledge and results communicated by child projects and coordinated at the Program level.

The GCP Project will build on the previous GEF project and the technical outputs of the other four projects under the Program, and an extensive baseline of different mechanisms to facilitate global knowledge management and communication on sectoral and cross-sectoral issues. These include the strengthening of fisheries management of resources based in the ABNJ or straddling between the ABNJ and EEZs, providing sound science-based information to the BBNJ process, as well as supporting efforts towards cross-sectoral cooperation in the ABNJ. These include:

- The Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) with a mandate in the ABNJ. The GCP will assist the child projects in identifying opportunities for sharing of experiences and south-south cooperation.

- Further strengthening of Regional Fishery Body (RFB) Secretariats Network (RSN) and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) information exchanges and collaborations on matters of common interest among the Secretariats of RFBs and RSCAPs and LMEs respectively.

- Partners in the Common Oceans ABNJ Program such as UNEP and its collaborating centers (WCMC and GRID Arendal), the Global Ocean Forum, WWF-US and others, that maintain knowledge hubs at global scales for a range of ocean data including marine protected areas, seabed mapping and other relevant data sets. The GCP project will work with these partners, and others such as the Global Ocean Forum, the RFMOs, RSCAPs, LMEs and private sector as information conduits and platform, through the child projects, for not only sharing knowledge but for cross-sectoral information integration, best practices and e-learning. This will facilitate regional and global transfer of information into the Program and its child projects as well as the wider outflow of knowledge and other information projects through these institutions to stakeholders at regional and national levels.

Box 1. The FAO e-learning Academy

The FAO elearning Academy supports member countries through capacity development interventions, ensuring the transfer of know-how, knowledge, skills and competencies using eight different methodologies: elearning, blended learning programmes, massive open online courses (MOOCs), technical webinars, online tutored courses, mobile learning, face-to-face training workshops and university master's and postgraduate degree programmes.

The Academy follows a participatory approach for a targeted, learner-centred design. For any type of learning intervention delivered by the FAO elearning Academy, a preliminary and thorough multistakeholder and multidisciplinary collaborative learning needs assessment – involving field practitioners and target audience representatives – is conducted to design a comprehensive curriculum.

This assessment is based on a detailed analysis of the target audience groups, including their roles, job functions and responsibilities; their key job tasks; and the knowledge, skills and competencies required to improve their performance and reach the overall learning intervention objectives. This thorough analysis is crucial to define what kind of learning intervention and delivery solution is more appropriate for the target audience.

This accurate collaborative learner-centred design ensures that the technical content is relevant, that the learning experience has a clear purpose with realistic objectives and measurable outcomes, and that the competencies acquired to match the specifically targeted professional profiles.

In addition, quality criteria are used to ensure alignment between the objectives, activities, technical content, media design and knowledge assessment tests.

In accordance with adult learning theories and competency-based learning, the instructional approach aims to accomplish learning objectives at the knowledge, comprehension and application level, with or without the support of an instructor.

The content is developed following a logical learning sequence that is aligned with current adult learning methodologies, theories and strategies.

The content is always gender inclusive; culturally sensitive; engaging; and rich in interactive elements, examples, relevant case-studies and interactive case-based scenarios. It is designed to be learner-centred and user-friendly. The navigation in the courses is free and orientation is designed to be clear.

Assessments and certification
Knowledge assessment tests are used throughout the courses. These reinforce learning, increase active participation, increase retention and memorization of concepts and principles, increase interactivity and allow learners to have opportunities to practice their understanding of the materials.

Each course offered will have a clear purpose and realistic objectives that are measurable through knowledge tests and a final evaluation. Certification is granted by FAO through passing the final scenario-based performance evaluation with a score of 75 per cent or more. A digital badges system certifies the acquisition of competencies.

For additional information, go to https://elearning.fao.org/mod/page/view.php?id=4534

Component 3: Innovative Private Sector Engagement in ABNJ

Outcome 3.1: The private sector enabled to engage and innovatively invest in collective action to address ?global? or ?ABNJ wide? sustainability issues

As discussed in detail above, private sector actors operating on the high seas engaged in activities such as fishing and shipping contribute to major problems such as plastic pollution, ghost fishing, carbon emissions, mortality of engendered and threatened species and damage to critical habitat. Resolving these issues requires private sector actors to be strategically engaged and able to invest in innovation with confidence of meaningful returns or value. This includes those sectors responsible for negative impacts along with sectors that can provide solutions, such as the technology or finance sector and other businesses engaged in such things as retrieving and recycling ?potential[3]? and actual marine debris.

Resistance among industry to more sustainable business practices is often driven by a fear of increased costs and reduced competitiveness. The GCP will carry out analysis that inform a wide array of stakeholders including industries engaged in ABNJ and their potential investors. The analysis will focus on:

1. identifying where and under want conditions private sector driven improvements in ABNJ reduce costs, increased revenues or generate other private sector benefits such as more reliable access to high-value markets or improved brand value;
2. providing information on potential solutions that make it easier and/or more cost effective for business practice-transitions to occur; and,
3. linking private sector innovations to capital at favourable rates to enable transformations.

At the root of this hesitancy is a lack of understanding of the options, costs, risk, sustainability impacts and financial feasibility associated with more sustainable business practices. Broad transformations across multiple sectors at scale is more likely to be achieved by address common barriers. These include: i) the lack of tools to facilitate preparation of investments with high environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards in ocean-related projects, ii) little access to instructive case studies on adapting business operations (value chain reform) or iii) the lack of knowledge regarding the availability of financing options that provide favourable terms in exchange for measurable ESG impacts.

The OPP made clear that investors with high ESG standards also lacked knowledge and context regarding sustainability in ABNJ, perceiving high risk associated with the heterogenous ABNJ fisheries sectors. Fortunately, the historical pattern of some high seas fishing being financed and conducted to maximize short-term profits in ABNJ at the expense of poor labour and environmental practices (e.g. IUU fishing) is beginning to change, thanks in part to the efforts of the international community, greater public concern about the health of the ocean and the growing awareness of ?blue? finance principles within the finance sector.

In this context, NGOs and other ?facilitators? have been engaging both seafood businesses and responsible investors on a case-by-case basis. As a result many fishery improvement projects have been initiated, and some investment commitments have been made. This can be complemented with a pre-competitive approach combining a set of broadly applicable tools with examples of existing business cases designed for broad audiences.

Output 3.1.1: Strategic documents and forums that improve private sector understanding of the financial feasibility and risks associated with investments and promote partnerships to support actions to address ABNJ-wide sustainability issues.

The GCP will therefore promote innovative private sector engagement in ABNJ through the development and marketing of a web-based platform designed to close the information gap within the business and finance communities. Such a platform codesigned with the private sector will provide a one stop shop of tools and guidance specifically for ABNJ-relevant sectors. The site will be designed to allow for easy access relevant information on multiple financing options, detailed technical guidance, tools to easily facilitate the preparation of business cases and final investor ready business plans and other relevant information for transformation of various ABNJ sectors. The sectors covered will be fishing, shipping and new and emerging sectors. This includes the prevention, removal and recycling of marine debris as a proof-of-concept that will be taken to a final business plan stage. While the proposed platform focuses on financial investments that improve triple bottom line performance in ABNJ, it will also have links to relevant sites and resources promoting the sustainable blue economy. For example, there will be links to other platforms geared to guiding banks, insurers and other types of private investors that typically fund large scale commercial enterprises as well as to the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles developed by the European Commission, European Investment Bank, WWF and the World Resources Institute launched in 2018.[4]

This platform will be promoted widely among ocean-based industries and the finance sector as well as the broader group of private sector actors and other ABNJ child projects. The GCP will also develop mechanisms to finance the maintenance and continued operation of the platform so that it can continue to serve as a clearinghouse of timely information, case studies, models and analytical tools, once GEF funding is exhausted. The platform will be a key tool in creating an enabeling environment for promoting innovative private enterprises focused on sustainability in ABNJ, which will be advanced through Output 3.2 of the GCP.

As mentioned above, it is also important to improve coordination of actions between governments actors and private sector to ensure alignment of long-term interests related to different dimensions of sustainability among governments, markets, and producers operating in ABNJ. Specifically, new partnerships synergizing market and policy-based approaches in key tuna producing regions will help improve the environmental, social, and economic performance of tuna fisheries. The GCP will therefore facilitate the development of new partnerships between public and private actors that support sustainability and help create the enabling conditions that need to be in-place for the partnerships to flourish. The specific partnership will be between:

- The domestic tuna industry in Fiji targeting South Pacific Albacore, including its operations in ABNJ. Note that approximately 38% of Fiji?s tuna catches by the national fleet are already in distant waters (Azmi and Hanich 2021), and that climate change conditions could cause a 16% decrease in the biomass of albacore that is currently available in Fiji?s EEZs by the end of the century (Senina et al. 2018).
- Major market-partners (i.e. retailers, importers, supply-chain companies) who are interested in buying sustainable albacore, and are prepared to help drive sustainability in ABNJ through targeted purchasing agreements linked to auditable standards for sustainability, social responsibility, and transparency in the ABNJ.

- Fiji?s National Government, which under the National Oceans Policy (NOP), has committed to 100% management and 30% protection of its EEZ by 2030. Fiji has also acceded to the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), although they have yet to ratify other important instruments like the ?Work in Fishing Convention? (C188) or the Cape Town Agreement on fishing vessel safety. The latter highlights commitments by the government to ocean conservation, as well as key areas where improvement are still needed.

A third important dimension of sustainability in ABNJ relates to the impact that climate change is and will continue to have on its ecosystems and biodiversity. GHG emissions have been estimated for the shipping industry globally[5][3] and major actors in this sector have invested in assessing their CO2 footprint and in committing to reduce their GHG emissions through a range of measures including transitioning to alternative fuels. Members of the International Maritime Organization (IMO 2020) have committed to reducing GHG emission by at least 50% by 2050[6][4]. This relatively large sector offers insights into how other ship-based sectors may also reduce their GHG emissions. little Significant greenhouse gas emissions, which have a direct impact on the health of the ocean, are also associated with various maritime sectors including the fishing industry. There are few studies on GHG emission in high-seas fisheries. Chassot et. al. (2021) estimate that in 2009, the global tuna fleet may have contributed about 5% of GNG emissions of global fishing fleet. While the global GHG contribution of these fleets may be relatively small, the seafood industry, like all others major food production systems will want/need to minimize its contribution to climate change as it makes progress towards other dimensions of sustainability including environmental and social parameters. Component 3 will therefore address the key question of ?how high-seas fishing fleets can make a transition to a low-carbon future and what implications this might have for key subsectors such as ports, ship building, refrigeration and energy/fuel in enabling such a transition?? To ensure buy-in and effective dissemination of results to the wider fishing industry this analysis will be done in partnership with a major private sector representative of high-seas fishing interests.

This GCP will convene the domestic tuna industry in Fiji, the national government and market actors with an interest in purchasing albacore tuna that meets high sustainability standards. This group will identify the financial, environmental and social benefits that would be obtained from a sustainable Fijian albacore fishing industry operating in ABNJ. The GCP will also produce feasibility studies / cost-benefit analyses to assess the viability of formal partnerships between these three groups. Other possible activities include producing an MSC pre-assessment, FIP Action Plan, full MSC assessment, Social Responsibility Assessment (SRA) etc.. All of these products and the multi-sector dialogue will serve to generate greater knowledge necessary to reduce risk and uncertainty for investments in the sustainable operation of the fishery and the fleet and for the market to subsequently reward that investment.

Concurrently, the GCP will formalize and support an additional forum. Modeled after the Iceland Ocean Cluster, the Pacific Island Ocean Cluster (PIOC) is a FORUMS that bring together disparate

public, private and academic stakeholders to collaborate and form a coalition around a base industry (in this case the Tuna industry in Pacific Island region), which works together to identify innovative Blue Economy opportunities/investments. The GCP will provide technical support for the PIOC to specifically help improve the private sector?s understanding of the options, costs, risks, sustainability impacts and financial feasibility of investing in novel business opportunities associated ABMJ resources. One current area of interest includes identifying possible commercial uses of tuna waste that is currently sent to landfills. The PIOC, in partnership with FFA, SPC and other relevant stakeholders, will explore this and other opportunities.

The GCP will also generate knowledge of the pathways to reduce GHG emission in high-seas fishing operations, by establishing a partnership between the FAO and industry leaders seeking to understand how best to minimize their carbon footprint. The GCP will identify a reputable climate academic center or thinktank (with a focus on carbon/GHG emissions reductions, ideally in the marine/fishing sector to join the partnership and provide additional expertise. Other partners such as port authorities seeking to renovate their ports in accordance with blue economy principles, and likely future clean energy systems, will also be invited to participate. This group would form a steering committee to oversee the design and implementation of the analytical work. FAO would identify private sector partners in the fishing sector and with port authorities. The analysis will result in a long-term roadmap for high seas fishing fleets to consider and to use to begin their transition to a low-carbon fishery and seafood system. The roadmap will be shared widely across fishing industry events and forums around the world to reach fleets from all major fishing nations.

Outcome 3.2: Model/approach for improved engagement of the private sector in addressing collective action in the ABNJ based on lessons learned developed, established and operational. At least one pilot private sector partnership explored to better understand the feasibility of different options including possible income streams, financial sustainability, operating costs and risks as well as impact on sustainability.

Output 3.2.1: At least one private sector investment agreement that contributes to realizing Program objectives

Drawing upon the web-based platform as a source of potential partners, and resource, the GCP will identify specific opportunities to work with specific private sector actors to explore the development of new business cases. Currently it is expected that one value proposition will focus on minimizing the impact of FADs and marine debris associated with retired FADs/fishing nets and other marine waste generated by the fishing sector in ABNJ. The GCP will apply analysis previously-generated by the web-based platform to outline a profitable opportunity, and further refine it into a business case that an investor could tentatively agree to support once a specific busness entity could be identified. This will be done through the continued use of the web-based platform?s ?investor marketplace.? Specifically, the GCP will facilitate the development of a cross sector partnership agreement between a group of ABNJ vessel operators, at least one company in the recycling/retrieval sector and at least one investor. Viable enterprise models will be shared with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative and other relevant forums to highlight the feasibility of engaging the private sector to generate solutions.

The GCP will also establish a model of how a longline albacore tuna fishery should operate in ABNJ. It will facilitate engagement between the Fijian government, the longline albacore fleet and market actors. The result is expected to be a multisector partnership focused on improving the sustainability of the fishery in ABNJ. At the same time, the GCP will engage with various private sector market actors (i.e. retailers, importers, supply-chain companies) to explore new commercial relationships with the albacore sector in Fiji that rewards the sector for more sustainable practices in ABNJ.

Output 3.2.2: At least one pilot study applies the value chain approach demonstrating private sector adoption of best practices to improve sustainable use of ABNJ resources.

The GCP will collect data from the private sector and analyze the value chains for retrieval/recycling companies under different scenarios. With investors and retrieval/recycling companies the project will assess the potential for scaling-up the removal of retired gear under scenarios and explore different strategies to minimize the carbon footprint of the operation. A pilot study will be produced detailing the financial, and environmental value generated by the proposed business model, opportunities for expansion and replication or adaptation.

In the context of the Western Pacific Albacore fishery operating in ABNJ, the GCP will facilitate development of a new credible Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP) and/or certification process for the uncertified tuna fisheries in Fiji, with a particular focus on achieving environmental and social improvements in high seas fishing, as well as helping to maintain the current MSC certification for the portion of the fleet that is already certified, but that is at risk of losing certificate. The project will improve the environmental and social performance beyond the MSC requirements to advance greater transparency in ABNJ fisheries, such as by equipping domestic tuna vessels with Electronic Monitoring (EM) systems to drive towards 100% monitoring of Fiji?s fleet through a combination of on-board observers and EM systems and identify human rights and social responsibility improvements through the SRA tool. Additionally, and with regard to the identification of ways to generate greater value from the full utilization of Pacific tuna resources, once formally established, the PIOC forum will develop a value creation pilot with support from the GCP and the private sector. Lessons learned from all of these activities will be widely shared to key audiences to promote replication and adaptation to diverse circumstances through the use of the web-based platform and other multiple platforms and forums.

d. Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

The proposed project delivers on the GEF?s International Waters Focal Area Strategy and also supports biodiversity and climate mitigation strategies. It promotes strengthening fishing practices and ecosystem governance by strengthening RFMOs activities especially in regional and global policy settings for sustainable fisheries and habitat management through improved coordination among RFMOs and between RFMOs and other regional entities including Regional Seas and LME Secretariats, and the private sector. This will be accomplished by coordinated and coherent communications, outreach, as well as targeted knowledge sharing and capacity building. This project is therefore fully aligned with the GEF-7 Focal Areas and their objectives:? IW Objective 2 ?Improve

management in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)?. The project will engage the private sector for both co-financing and innovation. It will support the GEF?s efforts to address pollution reduction in the marine environment by building awareness among ABNJ-relevant industries of their contribution to plastic pollution and engage them in finding and piloting solutions. Similarly, the high-seas fishing sector will be engaged to generate insights on how they can transition to a carbon-neutral sector by focusing on innovations including sustainable energy breakthroughs.

The GCP and the Common Oceans Program in general builds on supporting an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management of deep sea fisheries, including seamounts, as well as regional tuna fisheries management organizations (tRFMOs) in ABNJ. Under the GEF-7 Programme and its child projects, and the GCP in particular, support will be given to foster information sharing to promote sustainable practices and inform decision-making by private businesses and regional organisations such as, LME commissions, RFMOs or the Regional Seas program. Addressing fisheries and in particular IUU fishing in the high seas continues to be a high priorit, with the fisheries projects and the GCP assisting capacity building among concerned states and organisations and foster public private partnerships between the RFMOs and the large commercial fishing fleets harvesting in the high seas and its associated supply chain. Finally, the GCP will explore possible cooperative frameworks between the member States of the RFMOs and those States participating in the Large Marine Ecosystems to improve management opportunities and cohesion between these two interdependent management frameworks.

The following types of outcomes, listed as investments that GEF would favour, are supported by activities by one or more of the child Program to ensure sound maritime legal frameworks for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity:

- Strengthen support to RFMO activities including national and regional policy setting to end IUU and overfishing and inform sustainably management of marine capture fisheries;
- Collaboration among relevant international, regional and domestic bodies on area-based management in national waters and ABNJs;
- Reduce overexploitation of fish stocks and IUU, through implementation of international agreements.

e. Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

Without the GEF investment in the GCP the programmatic benefits of the Common Oceans would not materialized and many of the shortcomings noted in the Terminal Evaluation of the GEF-5 Programme will re-occur.

In particular, with no coordination between the child project, opportunities for collaboration across projects on issues of common interest will be missed. The success of some of the programmatic interventions, like raising awareness of BBNJ issues and better preparedness of developing States for an participation in the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, depends on a fluid communication. Further opportunities for synergies between projects that would lead to a better use of resources (see for example, possible collaborations between Tuna and the Deep- Sea Projects) would not take place.

The GCP is a fundamental tool in providing a cohesive narrative that explains the role played by the different contributions of the child projects, and showcases the impact of those contributions to a global audience, through the activities under the KMC strategy (see component 2). Without the GCP investment, it would become much more difficult to provide and disseminate those programmatic lessons learned.

The GCP will enable the programmatic approach to deliver added value in terms of effectiveness, sustainability and scale at global and regional levels, as well as distributing synthesized knowledge generated by the projects to the larger group of beneficiaries of the Program.
This programmatic value-added will be generated through the delivery of the three components of the GCP that respond to the project-specific barriers noted above:

Component 1 will deliver programmatic value added by ensuring efficient programme-wide coordination and monitoring of the projects, and ensures coherence and consistency among all child projects included in the program, while also being responsible for facilitating collaborative engagement by relevant entities (institutions, networks, etc.) that could place a major role in advancing transformational change.

In this component an M&E system will be established using standard methods and incorporating child project M&E results and program-level indicators, to guide adaptive program management and reporting including program-wide contributions to GEF-7 core indicators and SDGs. This component will seek to generate synergies between projects, resulting in increases in cumulative impacts, and limit the risk of duplication or conflicts.

Component 2 will focus on knowledge management, communication and outreach and capacity building, through consistent and innovative online tools, together these should contribute to child project effectiveness. This component will ensure projects respond to and share lessons learned regionally and globally, findings from cutting edge science and best practices, and facilitate links to regional and global knowledge hubs such as the Ocean Action Hub, Oceanhub.org and RevOcean. It will also contribute to sustained uptake and scaling out of impacts, by ensuring that lessons learned through the child projects are collated and analyzed, disseminated into national, regional and global knowledge hubs with a focus on target stakeholders.

Component 3 will focus on enabling the private sector to engage and invest in collective action to address ?global? or ?ABNJ wide? sustainability issues. Without a better understanding of the risks and ways to mitigate these risks (e.g. business opportunities) provided by this component, many private sector players will remain reluctant to explore investing in the sector despite their desire to contribute to the SDG goals. This component will also further test models/approaches/incentives driving more sustainable business practices as well as solution-oriented new businesses (including full utilization of ABNJ fish catches and fishing rear recovery and recycling) and risk mitigation measures for better private sector engagement and investment in addressing ABNJ-wide issues.

f. Global environmental benefits (GEFTF)

Overall the Program (GEF ID 10548) particularly addresses multi-state cooperation to reduce threats to international waters, helping to restore and sustain marine ecosystems goods and services, including globally significant biodiversity, as well as maintaining the capacity of natural systems to sequester carbon, and reducing vulnerability to climate variability and climate-related risks, and increasing ecosystem resilience. Through its 5 constituent child projects, the program will contribute to the following specific Global Environmental Benefits principally to:

- Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric tons
- Marine protected areas (VMEs in the case of ABNJ) created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha)
- Marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (ha)
- Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management (number)
- Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF (number), through all the child projects

These benefits will be delivered in an integrated cross-sectoral manner within an overall framework of ecosystem management.

GEF 7 Core Indicators		**Tuna**	**Deep Sea**	**Cross-sectoral**	**Sargasso Sea**	**Global Coordination**	**Total**
1	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)						
2	Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)		42 million				42 million
3	Area of land restored (Hectares)						
4	Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)						
5	Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)				685 million		685 million

6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO2e)							
7	Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management		Global	Global	2	1	Global	3
8	Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric tons)		724,000	50,000				774,000
9	Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)							
10	Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources (grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)							
	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	Women	8,404	1,200	1,750	3,752	3,575	15,106
11		Men	3,380	800	1,750	4,718	2,375	10,648

The Global Coordination Project (GCP ? GEF ID 10626) will further contribute to the delivery of global environmental benefits in three ways:

- It will improve the effectiveness of each of the child projects in delivering their projected global environmental benefits, by facilitating coordination, collaboration and knowledge sharing with other regional and global entities addressing similar ABNJ issues and improve the cost-effectiveness of impact delivery.
- By facilitating outreach and capacity building among partners, this will enable child projects between them to contribute to global environmental benefits of regional significance competently and cost effectively.
- It will contribute to scaling-out of impacts among partners as well as other entities working in the ABNJ including the private sector.

- Rapid dissemination of lessons learned across different users of the ABNJ space and interested audiences.

From a programmatic point of view, the Common Oceans will make a number of significant contributions to the delivery of Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs). Key GEBs derived from the Program will result from meaningful reduction in the threats to bycatch species in ABNJ, especially for sharks, marine mammals, sea turtles and seabirds, and safeguarding of globally important marine ecosystems, such as seamounts and hydrothermal vents and their associated fauna, deep-water corals and sponges. These include many species including sharks and marine turtles listed as globally threatened by IUCN (IUCN Red List). Through effective ABNJ fisheries management and a more multi-sectoral collaborative approach to governance of ABNJ resources, the Program will support conservation of many of such species and reduce direct threats to target and non-target species that are not currently under globally threatened species? list. Also, given that there are many marine species whose range includes both coastal and high seas areas in at least part of the life cycle or at different times of the year, e.g. many tuna species, marine turtles, seabirds, more effective management of ABNJ fisheries and measures to improve the conservation of biodiversity in ABNJ will also support delivery of GEBs in national coastal waters and LME systems. Also, there is evidence that marine fauna could be important in carbon capture and storage (so-called ?blue carbon?) so sustainable management of marine biodiversity, especially fish and marine mammals, will support green house gas sequestration and thus provide additional global environmental benefits.

Program measures to move towards more sustainable fisheries in ABNJ will lead to measurable improvements in the status of targeted tuna and deep sea fish stocks in the areas under the jurisdiction of the RFMOs operating in ABNJ as well as a reduction in non-compliance behavior and IUU fishing in both tuna and deep sea fisheries, helping to maintain the species and genetic diversity of ABNJ fisheries? resources. Additional global benefits include strengthened global knowledge and capacities to support effective ABNJ fisheries management amongst national, regional and global stakeholders and through the development of the tools and methodologies that can assist effective long term planning, improved south-south and north-south cooperation on environmental management and greater capacity for involvement in governance processes related to ABNJ.

The new GEF-7 Program is aligned with the priorities of the GEF International Waters Focal Area. The Program particularly addresses multi-state cooperation to reduce threats to international waters, helping to restore and sustain marine ecosystems goods and services, including globally significant biodiversity, as well as maintaining capacity of natural systems to sequester carbon, and reducing vulnerability to climate variability and climate-related risks, and increasing ecosystem resilience. Through its constituent child projects, the program will contribute to the following specific Global Environmental Benefits principally to:

GEF Core Indicator 8 ? Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric tons), through the Tuna and Deep Sea projects;

but also contributions to:

- GEF Core Indicator 2 ? Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha) specifically through activities under the Deep sea project (related to VMEs)
- GEF Core Indicator 5 - Marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (ha) through the Sargasso Sea project
- GEF Core Indicator 7 ? Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management (number), with contributions from the Cross-sectoral Capacity and Sargasso Sea projects; in addition, all targeted ocean regions will actively engage with IW:Learn through the projects.;
- GEF Core Indicator 11 ? Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF (number), through all the child projects.

These impacts will be particularly generated in the regions targeted directly by the individual child projects ? such as the Indian Ocean and South-east Atlantic where pilot activities will be focused by the Deep Sea project The Program makes a number of significant contributions to the delivery of Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs). Key GEBs derived from the Program will result from meaningful reduction in the threats to bycatch species in ABNJ, especially for sharks, marine mammals, sea turtles and seabirds, and safeguarding of globally important marine ecosystems, such as seamounts and hydrothermal vents and their associated fauna, deep-water corals and sponges. These include many species including sharks and marine turtles listed as globally threatened by IUCN (IUCN Red List). Through effective ABNJ fisheries management and a more multi-sectoral collaborative approach to governance of ABNJ resources, the Program will support conservation of many of such species and reduce direct threats to target and non-target species that are not currently under globally threatened species? list. Also, given that there are many marine species whose range includes both coastal and high seas areas in at least part of the life cycle or at different times of the year, e.g. many tuna species, marine turtles, seabirds, more effective management of ABNJ fisheries and measures to improve the conservation of biodiversity in ABNJ will also support delivery of GEBs in national coastal waters and LME systems. Also, there is evidence that marine fauna could be important in carbon capture and storage (so-called ?blue carbon?) so sustainable management of marine biodiversity, especially fish and marine mammals, will support green house gas sequestration and thus provide additional global environmental benefits.

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These impacts will be particularly generated in the regions targeted directly by the individual child projects ? such as the Indian Ocean and South-east Atlantic where pilot activities will be focused by the Deep Sea project - but the targets also include an estimated 5% ?scaling out? effect at the global level covered by the program. This scaling out effect will result from the global programmatic vision of the Global Coordination Project, in particular its components on innovative investment component and knowledge management and outreach activities at global level.

The GEF-7 Common Oceans ABNJ Program will also contribute to the achievement of several of the goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The Agenda recognizes that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. The Program particularly contributes to SDG 14 (Life Below Water) - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and specifically its targets 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, 14.A and 14.C (contributions to relevant SDG targets are given in Annex D). There are a number of other SDGs that are also relevant to the sector including on climate change (SDG 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, notably targets 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, and 13.B) and SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, notably target 17.6.

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g. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up [7]

Innovativeness

The GCP will be innovative in taking a cross-sectoral approach to capacity building where there are common interests across the child projects. This should not only deliver cost effective capacity building but a richer experience for participants given the diversity of interests and experiences.

The GCP will take an innovative approach to engaging the private sector which has been notably absent in most of the BBNJ process to date, apart from the World Ocean Council. Activities for engaging the private sector in innovative ways are listed under the Component 3 of the work plan. This is described in detail in section 4 on Private Sector Engagement.

The new web-based platform is innovative in that it is an ABNJ specific resource serving several needs at once; from providing information how best the private sector can reduce ecological threats to mechanisms for financing these changes. Innovation will also be reflected in the development of entirely new business cases and start-up enterprises. The typical value-chain or fishery improvement approach will be also be expanded to a more systemic and holistic approach that includes social dimensions of sustainability, market financing for specific fishery improvements and public policy reforms to buttress and ensure a level playing field for private sector investments.

Sustainability

Focusing on the overall programmatic results, various factors can be identified as barriers to achieving sustainability of Program results and impacts, mediated by the GCP, including inadequate human and institutional capacities, collaboration and coordination among sectors and stakeholders, harmonization of regional, national and national policies, weak knowledge management systems, as well as a lack of common governance and management priorities at the global level. The Program?s strategy to support sustainability of results and impacts is built into the design of the Program and constituent projects targeting the individual, institutional and system levels. The sustainability of the Program?s results will be facilitated through its integration into the implementing and executing partners and through the mechanisms built into the program for knowledge management, and the close links and involvement of global and regional bodies with the Program, such as the FAO COFI and regional organizations will further support sustainability of Program results and provide opportunities for up-scaling. In addition,

the individual child projects build on existing initiatives and structures, which will enhance the likelihood of the sustainability of their results. Specific elements that support sustainability include:

- Improving uptake (mainstreaming) of international obligations and current best practice guidelines (e.g. measures to reduce bycatch) into RFMO member State fisheries policies and RFMO fisheries management practices, including through targeting the science-management interface;
- Strengthening cross-sectoral linkages and communication and partnerships, with development of a partnership strategy and knowledge sharing strategy and platforms ? the first will consolidate relationships that should endure past the life of the project, the second will be hosted in FAO which through the FAO Repository will ensure that the knowledge on the platform will be accessible past the life of the project;
- Identification of long-term financing, particularly through private sector investment for measures to address sustainable use of ABNJ and as part of the development of each child project (e.g. the Strategic Action Program for the Sargasso Sea will have a (standard) element that addresses long-term funding);
- Strengthening mechanisms for more effective and equitable participation of diverse stakeholders, including RFMO member developing country States, which currently have little capacity to engage with decision-making for sustainable management of fisheries in ABNJ, and wider participation by civil society groups and different sector bodies in multi-sector governance processes and planning for ABNJ. Wherever possible this will involve working with existing structures (such as science-management committees) rather than establishing potentially ephemeral new structures specifically related to the projects; the child projects will strengthen and facilitate these, providing them with information and orienting their discussion and decision-making processes related to ABNJ management issues; and
- Improving individual, institutional and system-wide technical capacity to address sustainable use of ABNJ through targeted capacity building efforts (through all child projects and across all Program components), such as training on MCS and marine spatial planning.

Fostering the capacity of individuals and institutions is seen as central to ensuring lasting collective ability to address issues of common concern in the ABNJ. However, capacity building is always a concern after intervention funding ceases. The Program therefore identifies several mechanisms for institutionalizing sustained capacity building, including through the development of strategic partnerships, networking and cross-organizational knowledge exchange, and financing among stakeholders (e.g. fostering national and regional centers of excellence and cross-national networks of universities on ocean governance related to ABNJ and to EEZs; institutionalization of curricula and courses related to ABNJ; networked utilization of manuals, guidance, criteria, standards, and reference materials related to ABNJ; etc.).

However, it is recognized that sustainability is a moving target given the evolving and emerging pressures on ABNJ, including growing impacts of climate change. The program will address this through building capacity for more adaptive management and sustainable use of natural resources in the ABNJ and all of the child projects incorporate considerations for resilience and adaptive management.

Scalability

The GCP it will invest in supporting the scaling out of the impacts achieved by the child projects to wider audiences and areas outside of their immediate areas of influence. This will be achieved at the global level by the GCP and its programmatic Knowledgee Management and Communications Strategy. One of the main products of the KMC will be the generation of briefing documentas that highlight lessons learned from the child project activities, emphasizing the benefits from a change in practices and how this change could generate additional benefitial socio-economic outcomes without inducing further stress on the environment.

These descriptions of the positive lessons learned can served also as a letter of introduction to potential donors and private sector, in particular, to garner interest in replicating and scaling up those successful experiences.

The GCP and, hence, Program is designed to enable scaling up (at the level of policy and legislation), and scaling out beyond the boundaries of the current stakeholder groups involved (e.g. to sectors such as deep sea mining) of results, best practices and impacts, both in terms of the range of concerns/issues addressed and in terms of geographical scope. Indeed a central approach of the Program is to upscale and/or diversify approaches and technologies that demonstrated their cost-effectiveness under the GEF-5 program and, in some cases, extend this to include new and promising technologies, such as electronic monitoring in fishing fleets, as well as influence changing relationships and cultural values through Knowledge Management, outreach, information exchange, and targeted awareness raising activities, including promoting markets that support sustainable products from the ABNJ.
The Program is built on successful partnerships and networks developed and supported through the previous GEF-5 program which will be employed in the dissemination and sharing of information and upscaling of results and lesson learned. It is expected that because of the importance of the ABNJ partnership, including three GEF Agencies and many of the RFMO secretariats, the lessons learnt and best practices will be disseminated, shared and applied in new initiatives. For instance, in relation to tuna fisheries, these include the cross tuna RFMO processes similar to the Kobe process, a global network for compliance officials across tuna RFMOs and an informal network to share information among tuna RFMOs (tuna-org.org).

Actions proposed under Component 2 of the GCP and the Cross-Sectoral child project, will particularly support the participating partners in similar conditions. For instance, improving cross-sectoral coordination and communication will also help catalyze the up-scaling of results to global as well as national level governance and management decision-making processes. Other Program results and lessons that are expected to have high potential for up-scaling and replication include the Strategic Action Program to be developed for the Sargasso Sea. The challenges facing the Sargasso Sea are common to most other high seas areas (human activities regulated on a sectoral basis with no overarching co-ordination framework that can detect governance gaps or cumulative impacts of such activities) and so the Program?s approach for the region to pilot and promote closer interaction and partnership, is likely to be an important lessons and a potential model for other ABNJ regions.

Particular attention will be given to empower the private sector investment to demonstrate that responsible investing can have a positive impact and be financially viable. Dissemination of successful results and clear demonstration of benefits and risks from innovative investments by pioneer private sector investors should encourage other investors to follow their lead and take similar risks to expand investments, supporting out scaling but also contributing to financial sustainability.

The capture of results and lessons learned, information dissemination and Knowledge Management activities will be coordinated through the Global Coordination Project, which will consequently play a key role in scaling up activities. Targets for dissemination and scaling up activities will be identified during the process of project formulation when a Knowledge Management and Communications plan is drafted that will set out information needs, key messages, routes for effective dissemination, partner roles and responsibilities and resources and timescales.

Outreach is a key instrument in support of international cooperation initiatives with the purpose to achieve behavioural changes among people. Much like businesses using advertisement to increase product sales, this type of communication uses high quality content, or storytelling by its current name, carefully designed to resonate powerfully with strategically selected target audiences, inspiring loyalty and advocacy.

Typically, action would be organised around a campaign that focusses on a particular issue of public concern, such as plastic pollution in the oceans, with the aim to meaningfully engage the audience by offering them concrete options. This is to encourage citizens or consumers to take action in a direction that will lead to outcomes that are part of key strategic objectives of the initiative in question.
Such action can be geared towards activities galvanising people's political engagement, inviting citizens to put pressure on decision makers to make choices in favour of outcomes in line with the strategic objectives. Action can also offer consumers options to change their behaviour in ways that would lead to desired outcomes. A typical example would be a campaign to incite people to buy certified fish.
It should be noted that for this type of outreach to be effective, i.e. to have a real impact people's behaviour, it is important to tailor the outreach efforts. The more beneficial the activities are to the targeted audience, the greater the retention will be. This requires highly specialized and labour-intensive operations are needed, including audience analyses to identify relevant actions. At the same time, robust and equally high-specialized operations are required to be able to measure if the outreach activities have effectively led to desired changes in people's behaviour.

Summary of changes in alignment with the project design with the original PIF

No significant changes have been identified with the proposal included in the child concept note

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Footnotes

1. http://www.kstoolkit.org/home
2. See Stocking, M. et al. (2018). Managing knowledge for a sustainable global future. Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. Washington, DC.; Global

Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO), Evaluation of Knowledge Management in the GEF, Evaluation Report No. 123, Washington, DC: GEF IEO, 2018; GEF/C.48/07/Rev.01, GEF Knowledge Management Approach Paper (2015); The GEF Evaluation Policy 2019 (Unedited). GEF IEO. 30pp.

3. Potential marine debris refers to retired fishing gear and waste that is collected before it ends up abandoned in the ocean. This is desirable because it is less costly to remove and, in many cases, more profitable to recycle.
4. Rising Tide. Mapping Ocean Finance for a new decade.
5. 1,056 million tonnes of CO2 in 2018 (IMO 2020 https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/GHG-Emissions.aspx
6. https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Documents/IMO%20ACTION%20TO%20REDUCE%20GHG%20EMISSIONS%20FROM%20INTERNATIONAL%20SHIPPING.pdf
7. System-wide capacity development (CD) is essential to achieve more sustainable, country-driven and transformational results at scale as deepening country ownership, commitment and mutually accountability. Incorporating system-wide CD means empowering people, strengthening organizations and institutions as well as enhancing the enabling policy environment interdependently and based on inclusive assessment of country needs and priorities.
    - Country ownership, commitment and mutual accountability: Explain how the policy environment and the capacities of organizations, institutions and individuals involved will contribute to an enabling environment to achieve sustainable change.
    - Based on a participatory capacity assessment across people, organizations, institutions and the enabling policy environment, describe what system-wide capacities are likely to exist (within project, project partners and project context) to implement the project and contribute to effective management for results and mitigation of risks.
    - Describe the project?s exit / sustainability strategy and related handover mechanism as appropriate.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

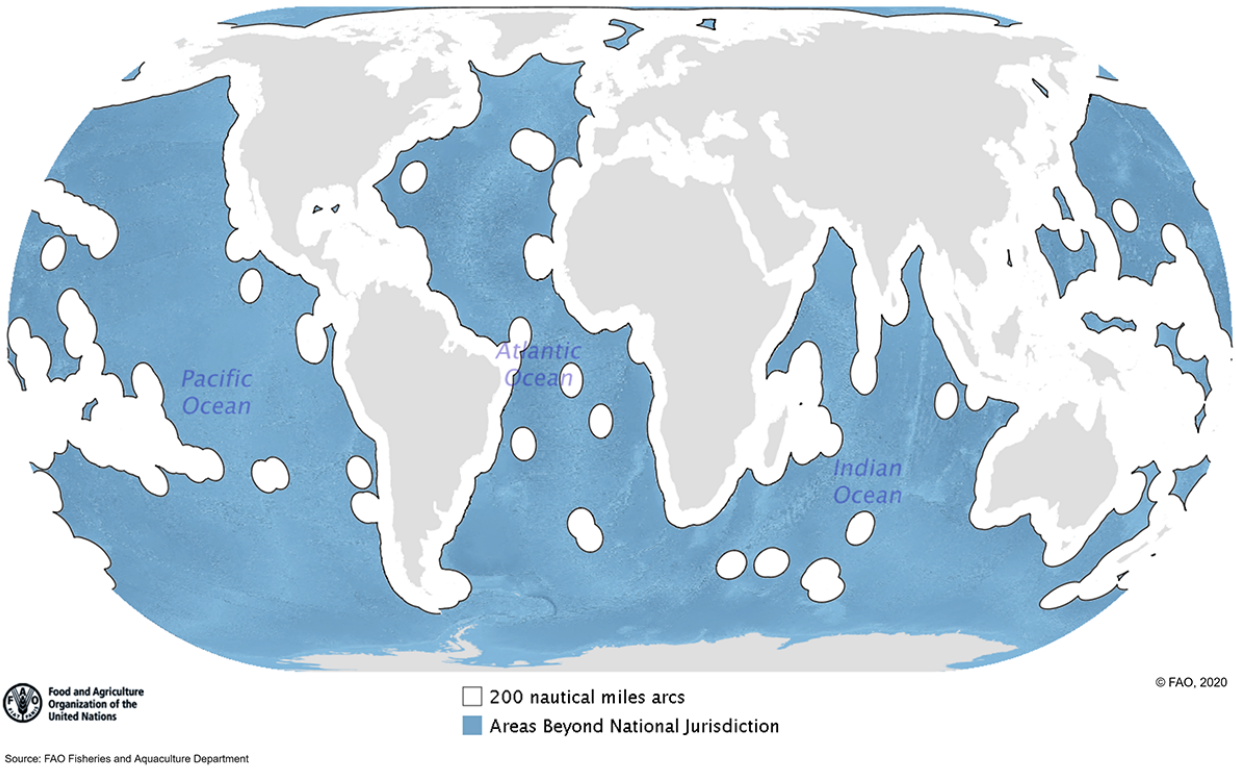

Figure 1. Global areas beyond national jurisdiction, shown in blue, estimated on the basis of 200 nm arcs

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

This project contributes to the 4 program components and therefore contributes to the overall program impact.

Common Oceans ABNJ Program GEF ID 10548	**Contribution of GCP (GEF ID 10626)**
Component 1: Frameworks and processes for more effective governance and management in ABNJ (including fisheries management) strengthened	The GCP will ensure that frameworks and processes across the other projects will deliver coordinated and effective action by the Child Projects, in particular in the identification of best practices, capacity building and lessons learned.

Component 2: Capacity for better implementation of ecosystem-based management in fisheries management in the ABNJ strengthened	This GCP will coordinate efficient and effective capacity building, including knowledge sharing and communications, so that together the projects will empower stakeholders with capacities to better manage resources, including fisheries, in the ABNJ.
Component 3: Participation in multi-sectoral coordination for more effective governance and management of ABNJ improved	Through improved communication tools and experience and partnership strategies this project, in collaboration with the cross-sectoral Project, will provide stakeholders with the capacity to more effectively participate in multi-sectoral governance and management processes in ABNJ
Component 4: Knowledge and information exchange for more informed decision-making among stakeholders to support sustainable utilization of ABNJ improved	The project will optimize the impact of the results, experiences, lessons learned generated through the projects by synthesizing and analysing information

The contribution of the Global Coordination Project to the Common Oceans

The Global Coordination Project (GCP ? GEF ID 10626) provides arrangements for the child projects to collaborate (while retaining their individuality) to efficiently achieve large-scale impacts on the global management of the ABNJ. Specifically interlinking the Tuna (GEF ID 10622), Deep-Sea Fisheris (GEF ID 10623), Sargasso Sea (GEF ID 10620) and the Cross-sectoral (GEF ID 10697) Projects through coordination and engagement, they will collectively address the above threats more effectively, so that together their impact is much greater than individually. In general, interlinking brings the four child projects together to ensure actions such as knowledge sharing and capacity building will be consistent and far-reaching since integrating these interventions will combine the view from different sectors and reach far more stakeholders jointly, than if done at a sector/individual level. Ultimately the information, lessons and experiences generated by the different and synthesized, with the help of the GCP, will be disseminated through knowledge sharing, communications and capacity to a wider range of stakeholder from the various sectors operating in the improve management of ABNJ resources and areas.

Facilitating the coordination of common activities across the child projects will improve the effectiveness of the individual child projects and the program as a whole, allowing cost-savings and efficiencies; wider dissemination of results and lessons to broader audiences where individual projects would have less reach; increased opportunities for building and sharing of technical capacity including exchange of ideas on approaches, techniques and tools between projects (particularly tuna and deep sea projects); opportunitiesfor new partnerships and investment in actions to move towards the sustainable use of ABNJ.

The GCP Project will build on the technical outputs of the other four projects under the Program, and an extensive baseline of different mechanisms to facilitate global knowledge management and communication on sectoral and cross-sectoral issues. These include the strengthening of fisheries management of resources based in the ABNJ or straddling between the ABNJ and EEZs, providing sound science-based information on the BBNJ process, as well as supporting efforts towards cross-sectoral cooperation in the ABNJ. These include:

- The Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) with a mandate in the ABNJ. There are five tuna RFMOs and eight deep-sea RFMOs, all of them potential partners in the ABNJ program, covering more than 90 countries. All RFMOs have regional knowledge sharing hubs and active mechanisms to collect and process data for assistance in science-based decision making. The GCP will assist the child projects in identifying opportunities for sharing of experiences and southsouth cooperation.
- Regional Fishery Body (RFB) Secretariats Network (RSN) and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs). These networks facilitate information exchange and collaborate on common issues among the Secretariats of different RFB (more than 50 exists) and RSCAPs (18 exists) and LMEs respectively and more recently coordination and collaboration between RFBs and RSs (e.g. GFCM1 and MAP; NEAFC and OSPAR) on matters of common interest.
- Partners in the Common Oceans ABNJ Program such as UNEP and its collaborating centers (WCMC and GRID Arendal), the Global Ocean Forum, WWF-US and others, maintain knowledge hubs at global scales for a range of ocean data including marine protected areas, seabed mapping and other relevant data sets. The GCP project will work with these partners, and others such as the Global Ocean Forum, the RFMOs, RSCAPs, LMEs and private sector as information conduits and platform, through the child projects, for not only sharing knowledge but for cross-sectoral information integration, best practices and e-learning. This will facilitate regional and global transfer of information into the Program and its child projects as well as the wider outflow of knowledge and other information projects through these institutions to stakeholders at regional and national levels.

The GCP will contribute to the all programmatic compnents by virtue of its role of promoting the collaboration of the child projects, but in particular of Component 4 Improving Knowledge and Knowledge Management for more informed decision-making among stakeholders to supportsustainable utilization of ABNJ (see the programmatic ToC in Figure 1)-through the capacity building efforts under component 2.

In particular the following immediate outcomes of Component 4, noted in the programmatic ToC will benefit directly from the GCP activities:

i. Quality and availability of information on ABNJ (challenges and solutions) for decision-makers, civil society and private sector investors is improved to ensure well-informed policy and public choices and investment decisions

ii. Information exchange mechanisms and new knowledge management systems developed or strengthened to support awareness-raising and more transparent coherent decision-making

iii. Monitoring, evaluation, lesson learning and identification of good practices at the program level to ensure results generated by program activities feed back into decision making related to ABNJ

iv. Increased market and political pressure for sustainably sourced ABNJ products with greater transparency and traceability, reducing presence of IUU products in the markets 5. Increased public and private sector awareness, understanding, support and investment for sustainable management of ABNJ

The GCP will address some of these common challenges by (see Figure 2):

- Providing appropriate coordination mechanisms for gathering, collating, managing and exchanging knowledge among the projects and their partners, as well as globally and regionally across relevant public and private sectors (see GCP Component 1);
- Coordinating communication, knowledge sharing and capacity building in common areas of learning (e.g. ecosystem approach, natural capital assessment, monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) communication) and identifying synergies between the projects addressing different sectors as well as different fisheries (e.g. between tuna and deep-sea fisheries) and especially, for engaging the private sector (see GCP Component 2);
- Strengthening the capacity of project beneficiaries to better collaborate in the use of ABNJ resources through the coordination of common areas of learning and in a consistent and harmonized way across projects (see GCP Component 2);
- Facilitating engagement of the private sector to encourage long-term innovative financing focused on addressing issues in ABNJ through an improved understanding of the opportunities for investing as well as for corporate social responsibility (see component 3 of the GCP);
- Monitoring and evaluating the performance and progress of the Program to support adaptive management (see GCP Component 1);

By providing these services, the GCP will in turn enable the child projects to collaborate more effectively by bringing together different perspectives and approaches to address challenges to the sustainable management of ABNJ resources. By providing a more comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach, it will also assist developing countries in participating effectively in leading global processes such as the BBNJ, and managing better impacts from the fisheries and other sectors on the biodiversity sustainable use of shared spaces in the ABNJ.

Facilitating the coordination of common activities across the child projects will improve the effectiveness of the individual child projects and the program as a whole, allowing cost-savings and efficiencies; wider dissemination of results and lessons to broader audiences where individual projects would have less reach; increased opportunities for building and sharing of technical capacity including exchange of ideas on approaches, techniques and tools between projects (particularly tuna and deep sea projects); opportunities for new partnerships and investment in actions to move towards the sustainable use of ABNJ.

The integration of the GCP into the global framework of the Program is fundamental to its design. The GCP will play a critical role in supporting the Program as a whole through program coordination and monitoring, knowledge sharing and other inputs such as communication, capacity building and private sector engagement as shown in Table 2. The GCP will complement the benefits of the other child projects by allowing further programmatic value-added to be delivered beyond the result from the project-specific investments, ensuring that the whole of the Program is greater than the sum of the parts.

Principles governing the interaction with the child projects

The child projects, all working with different elements of ABNJ management, will each contribute to address the issues affecting ABNJ management identified in the programmatic Theory of Change. The results, lessons learned, experiences and best practices of the individual child projects will be translated by the GCP Program Coordination Unit team into a cohesive narrative that describes the joint progress of the child projects towards the programmatic goals.

For this approach to be effective, the Common Oceans child projects agree to uphold principles that will guide their collaboration on coordination, knowledge management and communications (KM&C), as well as monitoring and evaluation (M&E). These principles are:

i. The Project will participate in coordination meetings, at a frequency and times to be determined in consultation with the GCP Program Coordination Unit (PCU), to discuss topics of relevance to the implementation of the GCP. In addition, the Project will participate in the meetings of the programmatic Global Steering Committee to discuss strategic and implementation issues related to the Program.

ii. The Project will participate in efforts coordinated by the PCU to identify and implement opportunities for conducting shared activities when there is full complementarity between already planned activities between two or more child projects. This could allow for a more efficient and effective use of resources, including sharing relevant capacity building material and exercises.

iii. The Project will share all reports, knowledge management and communication products produced during implementation, and will participate in the development of programmatic synthesis products by the GCP that are based on those inputs.

iv. The GCP KM&C team will provide guidance to the child projects according to a programmatic KM&C strategy to be developed at the beginning of the implementation phase in consultation with all child projects. This KM&C strategy will provide recommendations on common issues such as Programme branding, visibility, common boilerplates, etc.

v. The GCP M&E team will assist and guide the child projects, if requested, to provide information according to a programmatic M&E strategy, agreed by all child projects, including programme level indicators, to allow a proper monitoring of the programmatic progress and an adaptive management of the Program.

vi. The Project will maintain its independence as to the conduct of the technical activities described in this project document.

The GCP will provide support for the projects to develop a cohesive and consistency picture of the projects impacts from a programmatic perspective. The GCP will not interfere with the implementation of the technical activities of the child projects but will promote agreement among the projects on areas of cooperation, coordination, and collective action at the programme level. The GCP will work with the child project to monitor and report progress towards program-level outcomes, and make all stakeholders aware of that progress.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings	Date	Comments
Private sector	Partner/Direct beneficiary	Local community	Consulted during preparatory workshops and meetings, and online consultations during PPG phase.	Supportive of the proposed activities of the project. Identification of specific needs and priorities were identified based on experiences and lessons learned from the GEF-5 Project, with support from the Individual Member States (MS) and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties (CPCs) of the t-RFMOs, and entities from the private sector representing the local (fisheries) communities (including vulnerable groups).	1st and 2nd Preparatory Theory of Change Workshops (December 2018 and April 2019) Final Project Steering Committee Meeting of GEF-5 Project in January 2020. Online consultations during PPG phase from January 2020 ? July 2021.	

Research institutions	Partner	Other	Representatives consulted during PPG phase.	Supportive of the proposed activities of the project. Identification of Specific needs and priorities were based on experiences and lessons learned from the GEF/5 Project, during which the FAO e-learning centre and propositions for possible learning materials were made.	2nd Preparatory Theory of Change Workshops (April 2019) Final Project Steering Committee Meeting of GEF-5 Project in January 2020. Online consultations during PPG phase from January 2020 ? July 2021.	*This stakeholder group was consulted via FFA through which connections were made to the USP and the Nelson Mandela University.* *Additional efforts will be made to establish accreditation with Academia in other regions to provide a certified MCS training course. With new collaborating institutions, representatives will be consulted as needed.*

Foundations and trusts	Partner	Civil Society Organization	Consulted during preparatory workshops and meetings, and online consultations during PPG phase.	Supportive of the proposed activities of the project. Identification of specific needs and priorities.	1st and 2nd Preparatory Theory of Change Workshops (December 2018 and April 2019) Final Project Steering Committee Meeting of GEF-5 Project in January 2020. Online consultations during PPG phase from January 2020 ? July 2021.	

Civil Society (including vulnerable groups)	Partner	Civil Society Organization	Consulted during preparatory workshops and meetings, and online consultations during PPG phase.	Supportive of the proposed activities of the project. Identification of specific needs and priorities were identified based on experiences and lessons learned from the GEF-5 Project, with support from the Individual Member States (MS) and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties (CPCs) of the t-RFMOs, and entities from the private sector representing the local (fisheries) communities (including vulnerable groups).	1st and 2nd Preparatory Theory of Change Workshops (December 2018 and April 2019) Final Project Steering Committee Meeting of GEF-5 Project in January 2020. Online consultations during PPG phase from January 2020 ? July 2021.	*This stakeholder group was consulted via representatives from the Foundations and Trusts and Civil Society Organizations that are in contact with local fisheries communities.*

National Governments and Agencies	Partner	National Government Institution body	Consulted during preparatory workshops and meetings, and online consultations during PPG phase.	Supportive of the proposed activities of the project. Identification of specific needs and priorities.	2nd Preparatory Theory of Change Workshops (April 2019) Final Project Steering Committee Meeting of GEF-5 Project in January 2020. Online consultations during PPG phase from January 2020 ? July 2021.	
Inter-governmental Organizations	Partner	Regional Government Institution/body	Consulted during preparatory workshops and meetings, and online consultations during PPG phase.	Supportive of the proposed activities of the project. Identification of regional priorities and proposals for specific activities.	2 x preparatory Theory of Change Workshops (December 2018 and April 2019) Final Project Steering Committee Meeting of GEF-5 Project (January 2020) Online consultations during PPG phase from January 2020 ? July 2021.	

Global Development Agencies and Networks	Partner	International Government Institution/body	Consulted during preparatory workshops and meetings, and online consultations during PPG phase	Supportive of the proposed activities of the project. Identification of specific needs and priorities.	2nd Preparatory Theory of Change Workshops (April 2019) Final Project Steering Committee Meeting of GEF-5 Project in January 2020. Online consultations during PPG phase from January 2020 ? July 2021.	
Donor and GEF Agencies	Partner	Resource Partner/Donor	Consulted during preparatory workshops and meetings, and online consultations during PPG phase	Supportive of the proposed activities of the project. Identification of the priorities of the GEF-7 work programme, and the International Waters Focal Area Strategy.	2 x preparatory Theory of Change Workshops (December 2018 and April 2019) Final Project Steering Committee Meeting of GEF-5 Project (January 2020) Online consultations during PPG phase from January 2020 ? July 2021.	

Sector/stakeholder group	GEF-5 Project phase			GEF-7 Preparation phase	
	1st ToC Workshop (December 2018)	2nd ToC Workshop (April 2019)	Final PSC meeting (January 2020)	2020	2021
Donor	Representatives from the GEF Secretariat attended and expressed priorities for GEF-7.	Representatives from the GEF Secretariat attended and presented the IW Focal Area Strategy for GEF-7.		Online consultations and meetings with representatives from the GEF Secretariat throughout the year.	Online consultations and meetings with representatives from the GEF Secretariat and the FAO-GEF unit throughout the year.
GEF Agencies	Representatives from UNEP attended and provided inputs on development of framework, captured in a draft ToC.	Representatives from UNDP, and UNEP attended and participated in the further refinement and general agreement on the draft ToC.			Representatives from UNDP and UNEP attended the Program Coordination meeting in July 2021.
Global Development Agencies and Networks		Representatives attended and participated in the further refinement and general agreement on the draft ToC, and presented draft proposals for project activities.	Representatives attended and provided inputs to ToC, Draft Child Concept Note presented, and were invited to provide additional comments by February 2020.	Online consultations and meetings with representatives throughout the year.	Online consultations and meetings with representatives throughout the year.

Regional/Intergovernmental Organizations and Agencies	Representatives attended and provided inputs on development of framework captured in a draft ToC.	Representatives attended and participated in the further refinement and general agreement on the draft ToC, and presented draft proposals for project activities.	Representatives attended and provided inputs to ToC, Draft Child Concept Note presented, and were invited to provide additional comments by February 2020.	Online consultations and meetings with representatives throughout the year.	Online consultations and meetings with representatives throughout the year. Representatives also attended the Program Coordination meeting in July 2021.
National Governments and Agencies		Representatives attended and participated in the further refinement and general agreement on the draft ToC, and presented draft proposals for project activities.	Representatives attended and provided inputs to ToC, Draft Child Concept Note presented, and were invited to provide additional comments by February 2020.	Online consultations and meetings with representatives throughout the year.	Online consultations and meetings with representatives throughout the year.
Civil Society (including vulnerable groups)	Representatives attended and provided inputs on development of framework captured in a draft ToC.	Representatives attended and participated in the further refinement and general agreement on the draft ToC, and presented draft proposals for project activities.	Representatives attended and provided inputs to ToC, and were invited to provide additional comments by February 2020.	Online consultations and meetings with representatives throughout the year.	Online consultations and meetings with representatives throughout the year.

Foundations and trusts	Representatives attended and provided inputs on development of framework captured in a draft ToC.	Representatives attended and participated in the further refinement and general agreement on the draft ToC, and presented draft proposals for project activities.	Representatives attended and provided inputs to ToC, and were invited to provide additional comments by February 2020.	Online consultations and meetings with representatives throughout the year.	Online consultations and meetings with representatives throughout the year.
Private sector	Representatives attended and provided inputs on development of framework captured in a draft ToC.	Representatives attended and participated in the further refinement and general agreement on the draft ToC, and presented draft proposals for project activities.	Representatives attended and provided inputs to ToC, and were invited to provide additional comments by February 2020.	Online consultations and meetings with representatives throughout the year.	Online consultations and meetings with representatives throughout the year.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Building a broad and consistent understanding of ABNJ, anthropogenic threats and opportunities for multi-sector innovation can only be done by continuous stakeholder engagement across global, regional, national and sub-national levels, together with system-wide capacity development and knowledge management. The GCP will focus on stakeholder engagement at global, regional and where relevant national and sub-national levels to ensure information, knowledge tools and capacity-building reach key audiences in the public sector, private sector and civil society.

Fortunately, most partnerships have endured and are likely to continue in future initiatives as evidenced by their active participation in the 2nd phase project design. The continued engagement of RFMOs and other regional entities, will primarily be initiated through their involvement in the execution of several project activities, but also through existing and planned mechanisms, regional meetings, and events.

Similarly, the engagement of the private sector in the first Common Oceans ABNJ Program contributed significantly to several. These relationships with the private sector will continued and expanded on in the 2nd phase Project strengthened with an expanded presence and role for other existing and new partners (see activities under Component 3 for a description of private sector engagement in exploring innovative schemes).

Stakeholder consultation in fisheries is also critical at the local level, including the involvement of vulnerable groups. Maintaining healthy and sustainable tuna populations and the direct ecosystem services they provide is particularly important to developing economies. As many fish stocks are straddling and due to the connectivity between high seas and EEZ, developing coastal States will suffer the consequences of ineffective management. In recognition of this importance and depending on the activity, communities, civil society organizations and private sector entities at the local level will be identified and consulted per GEF policies, as appropriate.

In addition to these groups, other key partners and stakeholders include inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector associations, foundations, trusts and trade groups. For each group, engagement will be achieved through dialogues, meetings and information-sharing via suitable means and channels.

A list of stakeholders differentiated by executing partners, collaborating institutions and other stakeholders not directly involved in project execution is provided below (Table 3). As noted above, the engagement of stakeholders for the Tuna II has been a continuous process that started during the first phase of the Project, and has continued through to the development of the 2nd phase Program Framework Document and subsequent project design process and present project document. A summary of the consultations carried out in the Project preparation phase has been provided in Annex I2. More details, including roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders, methodology and findings during the Project preparation consultations, together with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan are provided in Annex I2.

Table 3. Stakeholder Groups in Project Implementation

Sector/stakeholder group	**Executing and implementing partners** [1]and other collaborating institutions	**Others** (not directly involved in project execution)	**Roles and responsibilities**

Intergovernmental Organizations	Sargasso Sea Commission, IOC- UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, WCMC		Stakeholders in this group will participate in the Project execution, support the implementation of specific activities, or be affected, directly and/or indirectly, by Project outcomes.
National Governments and Agencies	**Government of Fiji,** **Pacific SIDs involved in FIPs.** (The collaborating National Governments and Agencies listed here are yet to be confirmed based on scoping exercise planned for PY1.)		Stakeholders in this group will support the implementation of specific activities, and will be able to influence thr strategic direction of the the Project execution via their role as Sate actors in the RFMOs. They will also benefit from Project outcomes that affect directly their ability to better manage the ABNJ tuna fisheries.

Civil Society(including vulnerable groups)	**World Wildlife Fund Conservation International (CI),** **Marine Stewardship Council (MSC),**	*Local communities and workers along the tuna supply chain (including vulnerable groups) depending on tuna fisheries for food and livelihoods security, globally.*	Stakeholders in this group will participate in the Project execution, support the implementation of specific activities, or be affected, directly and/or indirectly, by Project outcomes. For more details on the roles and responsibilities of the individual stakeholder groups, see Annex I2.
Private sector	**Fiji National Fishermen Association,**	*International Coalition of Fishermens Associations.* *Other fishing and processing companies; buoy manufacturers; fleet owners and fishing associations,*	Stakeholders in this group will participate in the Project execution, or be affected, directly and/or indirectly, by Project outcomes. For more details on the roles and responsibilities of the individual stakeholder groups, see Annex I2.

[1] Defined as a direct recipient of GEF funds

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

Fisheries is the dominant production and employment sector within ABNJ, which is usually perceived as male-dominated because most fishers ? those who go out in boats and fish ? are men. However, women make an essential contribution to marine fisheries[1] but much of the work women carry out in the fisheries sector is informal and occupational segregation is widespread.

In terms of social dimensions, in many fishing communities, women play an important role in fisheries along the value chain. In the tuna industry, for instance, while fishing itself is carried out overwhelmingly by men, women engage in a wide range of activities, including in pre- and post-harvesting, seafood processing, marketing and trading, and 80% of the workers in canning are women, making the industry a key player in gender balance in some countries/communities (differing according to country and cultural context). Indeed it is estimated that about half of all people around the world working full or part time in fisheries are women. Nevertheless, the roles of women remain largely unacknowledged in fisheries sector, even though they contribute substantially to revenue stability and food security (and the picture can be unclear as some countries women?s involvement with fish processing is reported under the manufacturing sector rather than the fisheries sector).

Many of the women involved are in low-skilled, low-paid jobs without health, safety and labour rights protections. In addition, women often face significant barriers to accessing financial resources, technology, market information and entrepreneurial support, although women, particularly through their involvement in the postharvest sector, often have a broader perspective of the value chain. Women are also poorly represented in the high-level leadership roles of the management of fisheries resources (e.g. heads of RFMOs, ministerial level), although they have more of a voice at the technical and (less so) lower managerial levels, e.g. scientific committees of RFMOs. A similar pattern is repeated in other sectors operating in ABNJ, e.g. deep-sea mining, oil and gas industry and shipping. However, within the environmental sector dealing with ABNJ and marine issues, and in national level personnel in departments such as foreign affairs, as well as in national delegations to the BBNJ process, there is much better representation of women in decision-making. In terms of the development and design of the GEF-7 Program, women represent almost half of the child project design teams, and the presence of women leaders in these teams will facilitate attainment of gender parity goals across the Program.

Gender equality is fundamental to any development but particular attention will be paid to this principle in Program in recognition of the vital role of women in high sea fisheries. The program will promote equal rights and opportunities for women and men, and ensure women's representation and involvement in decision-making that affects them and their livelihoods. Gender dimensions will be examined and a gender-specific capacity needs assessment undertaken during the project design stage, from which gender-specific activities will be proposed taking into consideration both the GEF?s Gender Action Plan and FAO?s gender policies and guidelines[2]. Efforts have been made to ensure that women are included in all stages of the Program (design, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation), with measures to incorporate a gender perspective in budgeting frameworks and concrete investment in addressing gender gaps. The project will ensure that women and men have equal access to, and able to equally benefit from, project activities, opportunities and resources. To ensure an active and productive participation by women in both the project and related activities funded by co-financing, the project will support high potential project ideas proposed by them and ones involving them by key actors, particularly through program activities related to innovative financing and value chain development (under Component 3). Women?s participation in FIPs supported by the project in Component 3 will be encouraged.

The FAO report The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture explicitly states that ?enhanced statistics on both industrial and small-scale operators, together with data on the secondary post-harvest and

service sectors, would greatly improve the understanding of the importance of women?s contribution to fisheries and aquaculture, food security and livelihoods?. Consequently, the project incorporates sex-disaggregated data collection and gender-responsive indicators (with baselines) in its design and proposes differentiated reporting of output indicators across all child projects and at the Program level to help measure progress towards women?s empowerment and gender equality and social-gender impacts in meaningful and consistent way. The collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data will help highlight the largely invisible and unacknowledged, but active, roles that women play in fisheries and other sectors operating across ABNJ and inform gender-transformative policies and frameworks, as well as accelerate the achievements of relevant SDGs (e.g. 5.5).

The program will build on gender-sensitive efforts carried out under the GEF-5 program to facilitate women?s engagement and develop specific roles and employment opportunities within the fisheries sector. There may, for instance, be opportunities for women to play leading roles in both at-sea and land-based observer schemes (pioneered in Ghana and South Korea as part of the GEF-5 tuna project) or enforcement teams for port State control measures.

The GCP project design reflects GEF Policy on Gender Equality and will as part of the project?s coordination role, ensure that the other four projects are aligned with the strategy and share experiences and lessons learned in the engagement of women in the projects. While gender inclusion and the promotion of gender equality are not specific objectives of the Project, the collection of sex-disaggregated data and information on gender will be incorporated into project design and information on gender dimensions relevant to the activity will be collected. Per FAO Policy on Gender a gender analysis will be completed during project design and, depending on the results, followed by a Gender Action Plan (GAP) (see Annex M).

Gender Analysis Approach

A gender analysis of the project context and planned project activities was the first step in the preparation of the GAP. The gender analysis for the GCP II was desk-based and relied on:

1. A detailed review of the GCP/GLO/541/GFF (?GCP I?) project TE report, and other documentation detailing the work undertaken during the first phase of the project.
2. A detailed review of GCP II project documents already prepared and under elaboration for the second phase (PFD extracts, Prodoc draft).
3. The GAPs and supporting analyses prepared for the Tuna II and DSF II child-projects.
4. An in-depth screening of the proposed project components, outcomes and outputs based on FAO?s guide to mainstream gender in FAO?s project cycle (FAO 2017).
5. A review of academic and grey literatures to establish the situation of women in the ABNJ fisheries and associated value chains,supported with discussions with gender in fisheries experts.

The resulting products of this analysis are two coherent and mutually supporting project documents that together progress the addressing of gender inequality in fisheries:

- The gender action plan (GAP) matrix (below)
- Revised gender section of the GCP project document.

This makes GCP qualify as G1 according to FAO gender markers (FAO 2017).

Overview of the situation

Fisheries is the dominant production and employment sector within ABNJ, which is usually perceived as male-dominated because most fishers ? those who go out in boats and fish ? are men. However, women make an essential contribution to marine fisheries but much of the work women carry out in the fisheries sector is informal and occupational segregation is widespread. As a consequence, the ABNJ fisheries sector, like capture fisheries more generally, is highly gendered, though if taken in its entirety, it involves just as many women as men.

Deeply engrained and unquestioned discriminatory perceptions on the place, role and value of women in society level condition their participation throughout the capture fisheries sector. In some Member countries, resources (land) and the right to make decisions over these resources are granted to men. Boys tend to be educated before girls. There is an expectation that woman remain in, or close to, the home for family responsibilities, their absence for long periods of time, for work or study, is frowned upon. Opportunities for women to participate in the sector are therefore skewed from the start: gender norms mean that men fish at sea while women work on land in processing factories.

Invisibility and women in the fisheries sector

<u>In fisheries management, science and education</u>

Women are typically under-represented in fisheries management bodies (RFMOs, professional associations, national fisheries administrations) and science (Arismendi and Penaluna, 2016), the latter reportedly suffering from systemic sexism (Crandall et al. 2021). Opportunities for education and capacity development are not always equally open to men and women. Add to this the glass ceiling found in the fisheries sector (WSI 2020) and men are more likely to advance in a fisheries-related career then women. Furthermore, the extent to which national governments? commitments to gender equality (e.g. through their commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women - CEDAW) trickles down to fisheries administrations and policies is not always evident (e.g. Brugere 2012).

<u>In post-harvest and certification</u>

On the contrary, women are over-represented in the workforce of the fisheries post-harvest/transformation sector but most often involved in low-skilled, low-paid jobs without health, safety and labour rights protection, while managerial positions are occupied by men. In addition, women often face significant barriers to accessing financial resources, technology, market information and entrepreneurial support.

Despite some notable (and rather exceptional) cases (e.g. Ghana?s fish ?mammies? networks and a few powerful women intermediaries and financiers of a tuna-export oriented industry), women in the post-harvest sector face hardship and numerous constraints, regardless of whether they process fish on a small scale or in factories. Disrespect of labour rights and decent work issues in canneries and processing plants are rife but have gone undetected for a long time (Sullivan et al. 2011), although press and research reports are starting to expose these issues to the wider public, which is increasing

pressure for the industry to demonstrate some social responsibility. However, while hygiene and traceability issues are well covered in fisheries certification schemes, this is not the case for human rights and protection of workers on vessels and factory floors (e.g. MSC, Human Rights at Sea 2020). A value-chain and inclusive perspective on certification are urgently needed to start redressing this: uunderstanding gender inequality and dynamics in post-harvest value chains is essential and tightly linked to the improved management of ABNJ fisheries and the progress of the industry as a whole to tackle gender inequality and social exclusion.

In media and communication products

The representation of scientists in the media is biased (typically presented as white men) and results in the denial of equal opportunities to women and women scientists for learning and professional progression (MacDonald 2021). Such systemic bias can easily seep into learning and communication products, with for example, training materials, case studies etc. written using masculine language (?he? developed, ?middlemen?, etc.) or visual examples that reinforce women?s invisibility in the sector.

References

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[1] Both the FAO report The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture and the FAO Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries position women as central to the global fishing industry.

[2] Including FAO (2015). Voluntary Guidelines in securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women

Does the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

No

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

As noted above, the development of a partnership across a wide and diverse range of stakeholders with interests in the future sustainability of fisheries and the conservation of biodiversity in the ABNJ was a central tenet in the first phase Program, and arguably due to their close collaboration and coordination, was a major factor contributing to that Program?s achievements. This relationship will be built upon and strengthened in the GCP with an expanded presence and role for other existing and new partners.

UNCLOS and similar multilateral agreements are indispensable for overseeing human activities in ABNJ. Yet aside from military activities, the private sector remains the main protagonist in ABNJ with negative impacts on sustainability. It is therefore critical that the private sector innovate in order to accelerate ecological improvements in ABNJ. In recent years governments have led industry in taking action, through inter-governmental fourms such as RFMOs and the IMO, on such things as deep-sea bottom-trawling, and shipping across sensitive ocean areas. Reinforced by SDG 14 ? Life Under Water (and SDG 13 ? Climate Action), awareness of the broader importance of the ocean to human well-being as well as the many and cumulative negative impacts that private enterprise and commerce are having on ABNJ, has grown rapidly. Corporations and the finance sector are increasingly recognizing the various negative impacts their operations and investments generate - from overfishing to pollution to GHG emissions. Although there have been some noteworthy innovations, particularly with regard to technology, to date few efforts have focused on shifting paradigms regarding what are acceptable private sector practices in ABNJ. There is no question that as the major driver of innovation, private enterprise can and should play an instrumental role in transforming how the ABNJ is governed, monitored, protected and exploited in order to conserve biodiversity and minimize the impact of climate change. This GCP is innovative because, based on this reality and unlike many other initiatives focused on ABNJ, it pivots from a government-oriented and policy-focused approach to one seeking to influence the pracices of private actors, private capital and major oceanic sectors active in or impacting ABNJ.

This GCP will identify business opportunities that conserve the ABNJ based on the principles of an equitable and climate smart blue economy. It will enable private sector actors to develop new products, processes and services with viable business models that generate benefits for ABNJ while generating value for their customers, investors, and employees. It will build on the experiences of the GEF-5 ABNJ Oceans Partnership Project (OPP), the ongoing Coastal Fisheries Initiative, and other recent initiatives such as FAO?s Blue Hope to encourage sustainable and solutions-oriented investments. The GCP will also take advantage of the wealth of existing knowledge developed through the rapidly-growing sustainable investing community and other ESG-related financing programs.

There was strong private sector participation in the preparation of this project, especially in the Component 3, that specifically seeks to facilitate the development of innovations in busness opperatons, financing approaches and partnerships that could help improve the state of marine biodiversity in the high seas. With this input, Component 3 is designed to gather and share knowledge with the private sector on the negative impacts that different types of private enterprises have on ABNJ resources and ecosystems. Once private sector actors, including potential investors, have a clearer picture of the various sustainability issues in ABNJ and how they could play a role in ameliorating negative impacts (see Output 3.1), the GCP will focus in on specific actors and move to establish specific agreements to explore ways to redesign existing business models and generate specific new business models focused on improving sustainability in ABNJ.

Planned activities will engage diverse groups of private sector actors: the fishing industry operating in ABNJ, major buyers of seafood originating from ABNJ, small businesses involved in collecting and recycling fishing gear or that develop new uses from previously discarded by-products of high-seas fisheries, relevant financial institutions, organizations that engage the shipping industry, organizations that represent other relevant marine business sectors and private sector actors relevant for other child projects. Two areas of private sector innovation envisioned are: i) reducing marine debris originating from ABNJ fisheries and ii) establishing a Fijian albacore fleet that is certified sustainable, adopts best-practices in terms of social and transparency dimensions and is supported with effective government policy and market rewards.

Achievng scale of the innovations will be achieved in part through broad communication targeting the private sector and financial institutions. Messaging will focus on the positive impacts on ABNJ being generated by participating innovators. We expect this to result in two things. First, it will help drive adoption of the innovations by other private sector actors who want to remain competitive; and second, it will stimulate further innovation as competitors seek to outcompete or outperform the early adopters. Innovatons could include electronic catch documentation and traceability schemes, using Blockchain technology , innovative results-based financing (blue performance bonds). Collectively, the partners of the Program including CI (Blue Abhadi Fund) and WWF (Marine Stewardship Council), along with FAO (AquaInvest), have piloted, and in some cases scaled up, innovative solutions for the private sector to finance biodiversity outcomes, and this project will harness this collective knowledge to seek similar blue financing innovations. Other initiatives with NGOs and Foundations such as the Meloy Fund, NatureVest, or private capital such as Mirova Sustainable Ocean Fund, will be considered. New partnerships with the private sector to be explored include SEAPACT, SEABOS and CEPESCA. Where there have been no demonstrated successes or lessons learned or where there is a question of scalability of previous successes, feasibility studies will be undertaken to engage the private sector.

Global platforms such as the World Ocean Council and the UN Global Compact will also be engaged to assist in outreach, information dissemination and private sector engagement.

Specific investors may include International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in particular, multilateral development banks (MDBs) who provide financing and professional advising for the purpose of development will be essential stakeholders for the projects. MDBs could finance projects in the form of long-term loans at market rates, very-long-term loans (also known as credits) below market rates, and through grants, and could be instrumental in implementing some of the innovative financing mechanisms to be proposed under the Global Coordination Project. What follows are some examples of initiatives:

? **PROBLUE** is a new Multi-Donor Trust Fund, housed at the **World Bank**, that supports the development of integrated, sustainable and healthy marine and coastal resources. With the Blue Economy Action Plan as its foundation, PROBLUE contributes to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) and is fully aligned with the World Bank?s twin goals of ending extreme poverty and increasing the income and welfare of the poor in a sustainable way. PROBLUE focuses on four key areas:

- The management of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- Addressing threats posed to ocean health by marine pollution, including litter and plastics, from marine or land-based sources
- The sustainable development of key oceanic sectors such as tourism, maritime transport and off-shore renewable energy
- Building government capacity to manage marine resources, including nature-based infrastructure such as mangroves, in an integrated way to deliver more and long-lasting benefits to countries and communities
- Cross-cutting issues such as poverty, livelihoods, gender, climate change and maximizing finance for development, are interwoven throughout the program.

? **The Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies** from the **Asian Development Bank**, along with a new ADB Oceans Financing initiative, supports the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and promote inclusive livelihood opportunities. Supporting ADB?s developing member countries to improve ocean health and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14. The Action Plan focuses on four areas: creating inclusive livelihoods and business opportunities in sustainable tourism and fisheries; protecting and restoring coastal and marine ecosystems and key rivers; reducing land-based sources of marine pollution, including plastics, wastewater, and agricultural runoff; and improving sustainability in port and coastal infrastructure development.

? **The European Investment Bank (EIB) Clean Oceans Initiative** supports the development and implementation of sustainable, viable and low carbon projects that reduce pollution in the oceans, with a particular focus on plastics. The goal is to finance ?2 billion in public and private sector projects by 2023. The initiative has already met more than a third of this target. The initiative was launched in October 2018 by the Agence Franc?aise de De?veloppement (AFD), the European Investment Bank and Kf W, the German promotional bank.

Alignment with GEF Private Sector Engagement Strategy The Project is completely aligned with the GEF private sector engagement strategy objective of mobilizing the private sector as an agent for market transformation, leading to sustainable production in a favourable economic environment.

In particular, it agrees with working strategically with multi-stakeholder platforms to achieve scale and impact. This is achieved by through the engagement of RFMOs, that are intergovernmental mechanisms of cooperation, but that have a strong participation of the private sector, as major constituencies within national delegations, and as self-standing observer delegations representing major sector of the industry.

Multi-stakeholder platforms for sustainability offer multiple benefits to the GEF to scale private sector partnerships and work comprehensively through value chains and private sector actors at all scales, rather than with individual companies or sectors.

The PSES supports a widened engagement approach, recognizing that the GEF Secretariat, agencies and countries all have a role in fostering private public partnerships and providing multiple entry points for private sector engagement.

Working closely with the private sector the Project creates a more collaborative working space in which the private sector is engaged beyond a transactional level, giving the sector a sense of ownership and better understanding of the process leading to sustainable utilization. The private sector is engaged as a broad base of private sector actors to be inclusive and responsive.

The Project will help to facilitate ways to enhance value chain connectivity, to generate efficiencies and collaborative models that connect market demand signals of sustainable consumption with sustainable models of supply. This is achieved by working towards supporting incentives to create better market conditions for sustainable fishery products.

Incentives such as eco-labelling and certification schemes rewarding sustainable practices creates the motivation for a more active engagement of the private sector in the fisheries management processes in place in the ABNJ, from the harvesting sector, to the processing and retail sectors of the value chain.

As it has been the case during the GEF-5 Tuna Project, this enhanced collaboration in the value chain brings the most resources possible to Project implementation and creates the necessary linkage to the major global markets and address more directly the drivers of environmental degradation.

The private sector engagement brings innovation, expertise, and the ability to deliver and disseminate results, with the support with the knowledge management strategy of the Project. The use and deployment of bio-degradable FADs during the GEF-5 Tuna Project, and bycatch mitigation techniques developed with direct participation of the fishing industry are clear examples of such collaboration.

Also important for the engagement of the private sector is the implementation of a dedicated component in the Global Coordination Project to explore innovative financing mechanisms to improve on sustainability. This is in line with the role of the Coordination Project to serve as bridge across the child projects to deliver programmatic results, in this case, by promoting replication and upscaling of innovative initiatives across all fisheries in the ABNJ.

Policy influence and the capability to contribute to national objectives such as decent working conditions and gender balance throughout the supply chain, resilience to climate change and human health gives businesses a strong, knowledgeable voice to inform policy that supports transparent, inclusive sustainable development.

[1] https://fishcoin.co
[2] https://www.oceancouncil.org/
[3] https://www.unglobalcompact.org/

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Risk management is a structured, methodical approach to identifying and managing risks for the achievement of project objectives. The risk management plan will allow stakeholders to manage risks by specifying and monitoring mitigation actions throughout implementation. Part A of this section focuses on external risks to the project and Part B on the identified environmental and social risks from the project.

Section A: Risks to the project

Description of risk	Impact[1]	Probability of occurance3	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
Lack of participation from the child projects	High	Low	An agreement on a number of principles to govern the interaction among projects have been agreed to and included in each project document	All implementing Agencies
Climate change	Low	High	Climate change with strengthen the rationale for the GCP, rather than undermine it. The GCP will support IP and non-IP countries in addressing climate change issues at national and transboundary levels.	FAO (GCP PCU)
Impacts on communication and participation due to national, regional or global health emergencies	Medium	High	Advisory and IT support to participating countries to permit remote communication among team members and with project stakeholders	FAO (GCP PCU)

COVID19 pandemic related impacts on the internal and international travel, operation of government/ partners/ project; health impacts on general population as well as economic impacts, regionally, nationally and locally	High	High	1. If there are changes in cofinance, then partners to work closely to seek alternative options for co-financing and ensure continuity of resource allocation to ongoing initiatives in project target areas. 2. It is likely that periodic closures of transport and offices as well as restrictions on organizing meetings/ training with large number of people will impact implementation of the GCP and the child projects. The GCP will support the child projects in identifying methodological alternatives that allow effective participation under these circumstances, and where necessary will arrange for technical inputs from the GCP to be provided to the child projects virtually (on line). 3. Ensure close collaboration with private sector entities and logistic companies to understand emerging barriers related to the pandemic and establish feasible options, with an emphasis on regional/transboundary collaboration FAO is undertaking a more detailed analysis on the impacts of COVID-19. These findings will help the GCP to target its support more effectively across the region, and to identify key COVID-related issues where support from the GCP may be required	Project executing agency, FAO and partners

Climate Change. As in many other sectors, climate change is a significant threat to the long-term sustainability of global tuna fisheries. In the Pacific Ocean, for example, predicted climate-driven changes pose significant challenges to the effective long-term management of tuna fisheries, and the vital contributions of tuna to national economies by impacting: (i) the biological productivity of tuna resources across the entire ocean basin and (ii) the relative biomass of tuna within the exclusive economic zone (EEZs) of small island developing states (SIDS) and in high-seas areas (international waters).

Preliminary analyses conducted in phase I of the Common Oceans Program under the Ocean Partnerships Project led by the World Bank indicated that the redistribution of Pacific tuna biomass as a result of warming sea-surface temperatures could cause significant economic hardship for tuna-dependent Pacific Island countries by 2050, including a total loss in fishing licence revenue across the region of at least $60 million (at today?s prices) and losses of up to 15% in total government revenue each year.

Similar challenges are likely to occur for tuna fisheries, and the communities that depend on them, in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans

COVID19. All partners were consulted in the preparation of the risk analysis, response measures and possible opportunities that might be identified in project design (see Table 1 below).

Table 1. COVID 19 Risk Analysis, Response Measures and Opportunities

COVID 19 Risks	Response Measures
- no/reduced travel - no personal meetings - delays/cancellation of workshops, and capacity building meetings - risks and impacts on human resources	- developing a budgeted contingency plan to cover the first two years of the project in case COVID19 does not permit the implementation of activities as initially proposed; - conducting COVID19-related risk assessments (e.g., challenges for stakeholder engagement and mobility) and opportunities (e.g., reductions in habitat fragmentation) to inform approach to project implementation to the potential effects of COVID-19; - adopt COVID-19 mitigation measures (e.g., for managing travel, workshops etc.) in line with government and partner policies and procedures; - revert to virtual mechanisms (Zoom, Skype, email-type platforms); - extend sub-project specific (i.e., capsule) timelines (e.g., time required for assessment of meeting fishery certification criteria); - shift education courses to online courses supported by increased engagement of learners and encouragement of enrollment through using advance learning technologies; - personnel boarding and inspection replaced by EMS; - prioritize sites selection characterized by presence of local staff - adoption of online survey tools; and - field activities where necessary and/or are more efficient shifted to the project?s outer years
Opportunities to support Short-term COVID 19 responses	
- project-related, short-term employment opportunities; - incorporation of covid mitigation measures messaging into the many training and capacity building activities supported under the project; - scoping sites in support of pilot activities, training and capacity building with COVID19 implications in mind; - reduced dependence on human observers will provide opportunities to improve transparency in supply chain and reduce risk of exposure to COVID19 (retraining would be needed to provide alternative sources of employment); and - more effective and efficient MCS systems in national fisheries administrations provide more autonomy to function at reduced human exposure to COVID and the resulting restrictions.	
Opportunities to support Long-term COVID 19 response measures	

- the longer-term effect is a contribution to greater effectiveness and cost-efficiency in reducing and eliminating IUU fishing, thus reducing economic losses and improving the performance of legal operators, considering also the external impacts of pandemics and other effects;

- project activities that bring socio-economic benefits to local communities such as expanding the SSF sector and associated jobs will contribute to increased awareness and access to available mitigation and adaptation measures in response to COVID (and other pandemics);

- strengthening compliance measures supported by increased capacity will lead to more sustainable fisheries and increase benefits to communities contributing to socio-economic resilience to pandemics; and

- increase understanding and mitigating human - wildlife conflicts resulting will contribute to increased environmental quality and increased resilience to external stressors such as pandemics.

At the time of PRODOC submission it remains unclear what the effects of an uncertain presence, magnitude and timing of COVID19 (and its evolving variants) would have on project startup. Assuming the Project is approved by GEFSEC it is proposed that FAO would prepare a contingency plan in consultation with the partners based on the latters? earlier proposals to adapt project activities to a prolonged, significant presence of COVID19 forwarded during the design phase. The plan would cover the first two years of project implementation (June 2022? May 2024) and incorporate relevant response measures as presented above. This contingency plan would be available to discuss if needed at the time of the inception workshop and preparation of the 1st AWP.

In more general terms, it is recognized that, in a 2020 document (GEF/C.58/Inf.07) GEF argued that the pandemic is a result of the direct collision between natural systems and human systems. The remarkable economic growth experienced during the last half century has disrupted ecosystems through unplanned urbanization and expansion of human settlements at rates higher than population growth, through rampant deforestation, and through widespread land degradation. With this disruption, people can more closely interact with wildlife, with zoonosis hotbeds erupting as a consequence.

The GCP, like the other Comon Ocean Projects, is primarily concerned with a marine environment far from coastal communities, so the conditions that created the zoonotic interaction in the case of covid-19 are less likely to take place. Nevertheless, the Project and Program aims are consistent with a Blue Economy approach that favors the adoption of a sustainable, inclusive, resilient, low-carbon, low-polluting, nature positive and circular economy-based pathway for society, reinforcing resilience from climate change, natural and manmade disasters, and other global challenges, therefore contributing to restoring balance between natural and human systems.

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[1] H: High; M: Moderate; L: Low.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

●6.a Describe the institutional arrangement for GCP project implementation.

Implementing Agency

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management services as established in the GEF Policy. FAO, as GEF Implementing Agency, holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. FAO will provide oversight of project implementation and technical support to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and requirements.

FAO responsibilities, as GEF Implementing Agency, will include:

- Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;
- Monitor project implementation in accordance with the project documents, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s)and other rules and procedures of FAO;
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned; and
- Report to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, on project progress and provide financial reports to the GEF Trustee;
- Provide administrative support for the Program Steering Committee.

The full outline of FAO?s roles and responsibilities in the project is provided in detail in Annex K (FAO?s role in internal organization).

Executing agency and Partners

FAO is the United Nations agency with competency in all areas of fisheries and aquaculture, and enjoys a worldwide reputation, including with its 194 member countries, for the quality and effectiveness with which it is fulfilling its mandate.

The FAO?s Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (NFI) provides technical inputs to the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), which is presently the only global inter-governmental forum where major international fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues are examined. COFI is also used as a forum in which global agreements and non-binding instruments are negotiated. NFI has a long and successful track record of building capacity and promoting regional collaboration in fisheries, through its country offices and also its technical/administrative support to RFMOs. NFI has developed instruments setting global standards for fisheries management, fighting IUU and bycatch. NFI has also led work on implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries and has produced codes of practices and standards related to product safety and responsible trade, including guidelines for the ecolabeling of fish and fishery products. NFI holds a leadership role in global fisheries information with the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics Secretariat for fishery statistical data standards, the Fishery Information Resources Monitoring System Secretariat which coordinates fisheries status and trends information sharing partnership.

For the above-mentioned reasons, as established during the PFD phase of the Common Oceans - Sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction Program, NFI will be responsible for the execution of Components 1 and 2 of the GCP.

To this effect, the GCP will establish a global Program Coordinating Unit (PCU) composed of a core group led by a Program Coordinator, supported by experts on Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management and Communications.

•As EA NFI, through the PCU, will be accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with the IA and GEF policy requirements. Specifically, NFI?s responsibilities, as GEF EA, will include:

- •Establishing and supporting the Program Coordinating Unit (PCU);
- •Acting as Secretariat for the Project Steering Committee (PSC);
- •Ensuring that the project is executed according to the agreed work plan and budget;
- •Review and submit required reporting obligations to the IA, including half-yearly expenditure reports and annual Project Implementation report (PIR);
- •Ensuring all procurement is done in compliance with Agency standards
- •Communicating with and disseminating information to the Executing Partners (EP) and other stakeholders.

The EA, via the PCU, will be responsible for the contractual arrangements with the partners responsible for the execution of activities. The EA and the PMU will provide direct supervision as required for an activity, also receive and review the financial and operational reports on the activities conducted, and will arrange for the transfer of funds according to the conditions agreed in the contracts.

GCP?s Component 3 will be executed jointly by NFI, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Conservation International (CI). These actors will be executing partners and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of component 3?s outputs and results.

Coordination of the Program

The GCP though the PCU will deliver the coordinating functions for the entire Common Oceans - Sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction Program, providing technical support to the coordination of the Programme and its four technical projects.

The GCP will be working closely with the implementing agencies of the four technical projects: FAO, UNDP and UNEP and with the executing agencies of each project.

•The GCP?s global Program Coordinating Unit (PCU) will work in close coordination and synergy with the executing agencies across the entire Program, namely:

- •The General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM) will be the lead Executing Agency of the Deep-Sea Fisheries project (Deep-sea Fisheries under the Ecosystem Approach). Established in 1949, GFCM is the Regional Fisheries Management Organization responsible for fisheries management in the marine waters of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and is composed of 23 contracting parties, plus five cooperating non-contracting parties. The GFCM implements its policy and activities through its Secretariat, based at its headquarters in Rome and implements a subregional approach to fisheries management through its technical units in the GFCM subregions.

- The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) will be the lead Executing Agency for the Tuna project (Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction), established in 1995 and based in the Republic of Seychelles, is the Regional Fisheries Management Organization responsible for the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean. It includes currently 30 contracting parties (member States), plus two Cooperating non-Contracting Parties. Under the coordination and oversight of IOTC, a number of executing partners will take the responsibility of conducting activities.
- The Sargasso Sea Project (Strengthening the stewardship of an economically and biologically significant high seas area ? the Sargasso Sea) will be implemented by UNDP and executed by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO). The Sargasso Sea Commission, established in 2014 following the signing of the Hamilton Declaration, does not make management decisions binding on its signatories, but exercises a stewardship role for the Sargasso Sea to maintain its health, productivity and resilience under continual review.
- The Cross-Sectoral Project (Building and Enhancing Sectoral and Cross-Sectoral Capacity to Support Sustainable Resource Use and Biodiversity Conservation in Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction) will have UNEP as the Implementing Agency and Global Ocean Forum, WCMC and GRID Arendal as lead Executing Agencies and will address the capacity needs of eligible nations with respect to the BBNJ process, as well as bring cross-sectoral issues to stakeholders attention in two areas of the Pacific.

The table below provides an overview of the implementing and lead executing agencies of the Common Oceans - Sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction:

Project	Type	GEF Agency/ Implementing Agency	Executing Agencies	Executing partners
GCP (GEF ID 10626)	Coordination	FAO	NFI	WWF CI (for Component 3)
Tuna (GEF ID 10622)	Technical	FAO	IOTC	5 t-RFMOs, CSOs, private sector organizations
Deep-Sea Fisheries (GEF ID 10623)	Technical	FAO	GFCM	7 deep sea-RFMOs, private sector (not executing, but providing co-financing)
Sargasso Sea (GEF ID 10620)	Technical	UNDP	Sargasso Sea Commission	Sargasso Sea Commission

Multi-Sectoral Capacity Building (GEF ID 106697)	Technical	UNEP	GOF, WCMC, GRID ARENDAL	GOF, WCMC, Grid Arendal

The project organizational structure and its relation with the technical projects is as follows:

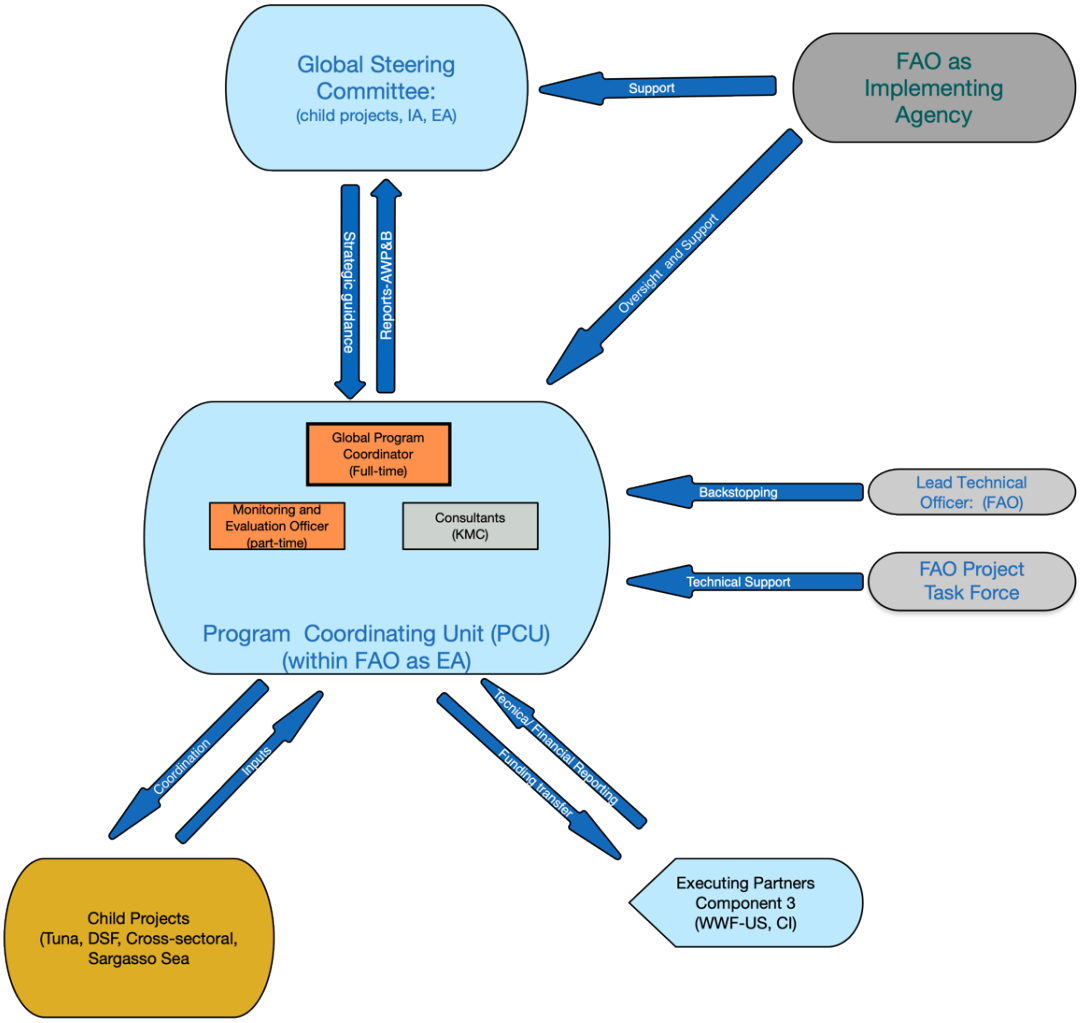

Figure 1. Structure of the Program Coordination Unit, the GCP and relationship with other projects

The Project and Program Steering Committee

The GCP will establish and organize meetings of a Steering Committee, with the Program Coordinator acting as Secretary, that will provide guidance at two levels:

1) As a Steering Committee for the GCP (PSC) will be established for the Project that comprising representatives from each of the executing partners as well as the Program Coordinator and the EA. The GEF Secretariat will be invited to participate as an observer. The PSC will be the policy-setting body for the Project and will be the ultimate decision-making body with regard to policy and other issues affecting the achievement of the project?s objectives. The PSC will normally meet once a year, although additional meetings, either in person or through multimedia (such as by video or skype conferences), can be called as necessary. Draft TORs for the PSC are appended in Appendix O. The PSC will approve its TORs at its first meeting.

The members of the PSC will be responsible for:

- oversight and review of technical activities carried out under the GCP;
- review and report on the progress towards the project?s objectives and their contribution to the overall programmatic objectives;
- assessment of the progress in the implementation of the GCP in accordance with timelines and goals stated in the Results Framework, including review of the project Theory of Change assumptions;
- taking consensus-based strategic decisions and recommendations when guidance is required by the Project Coordinator;
- a review of the narrative that links the impacts of the activities, outputs and outcomes of the GCP in particular in relation to their contribution to the programmatic objective;
- assessing effectiveness of the knowledge management and communication efforts at the project level;
- reviewing sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication;
- approval of the project?s Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B); and
- enhance synergy between the project and other relevant initiatives, including those related to the GEF International Waters Focal Area;
- reviewing and providing comments and independent external reviews and evaluations, as well as advise on any other issues that would be brought to its attention by the PMU.

2) As a Program Steering Committee (Program SC) comprising a representative each from the three Implementing Agencies of the Program, and the corresponding Executing Agencies (NFI, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, the Sargasso Sea Commission, Global Ocean Forum, WCMC, Grid Arendal). The GEF Secretariat and other executing partners will be invited to participate as observers.

The Program SC will meet at least once per year in person (virtually if necessary) and will meet with greater frequency as required, to ensure:

- ? review and report on the progresses of the 4 technical projects towards their specific objectives and their contribution to the overall programmatic Common Ocean objectives
- ? ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between the agencies involved in the program,

? facilitate coordination and links between the projects and the Program and participate in identifying possible areas of cooperation among the projects, and (v) report on the status on co-financing to the Program.

? Assessment of the progress in the implementation of the Program in accordance with timelines and goals stated in the Results framework, including review of the programmatic Theory of Change assumptions;

? Consensus-based strategic decisions and recommendations when guidance is required by the Global Project Coordinator;

? An on-going review of the narrative that links the impacts of the activities, outputs and outcomes of the child projects, in particular in relation to their contribution to the programmatic objective and dissemination of lessons learned;.

? Identification of linkages and opportunities for synergies among the child projects, as well as other ongoing external activities relevant to the Program;

? Timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support for GCP activities and engagement with Program partners;

? Effectiveness of the knowledge management and communication efforts at the programmatic level;

? Sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication;

Program Coordinating Unit

•A Program Coordinating Unit (PCU) will be established within FAO to execute the GCP according to the strategic guidance provided by the PSC.The main functions of the PCU, following the guidelines of the Program Steering Committee, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plan and budget. The PCU will be composed of a Global Program Coordinator who will work full-time for the project lifetime. In addition, the PCU will include a M&E expert (part-time), and operational support (part-time) and will use the services of consultants for KM and Communications. The PCU will be closely supported by the Lead Technical Officer (LTOs) for the Global Coordination Project, with contributions from specialists from relevant partners (e.g. RFMO Secretariats and other partners), Implementing and Executing Agencies of the other Common Oceans child projects, as well as an FAO Project Task Force to provide technical guidance.

The Program Coordinator, with the support of the PCU, will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation, management, administration and technical supervision of the GCP, in accordance to the Annual Work Plan and Budget approved by the PSC. He/She will be responsible, among others, for:

- Continuing communication among implementing and executing agencies of the child project for the sake of coordination, as frequent as necessary to achieve the goals of the Program ;

- Promoting and supporting a high level of collaboration among PSC, including private sector and civil society organizations;
- Ensuring an ongoing analysis of child project outputs and outcomes to construct a narrative of the programmatic progress;
- Tracking the Program?s progress and ensuring timely delivery of outputs within the GCP;
- Monitoring, providing technical support and assessing the quality of products generated in the implementation of the GCP, including products and activities carried out by project consultants;
- Monitoring financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports;
- Implementing and managing the project monitoring and communications plans;
- Organizing annual PSC meetings to monitor progress and preparing the Annual Budget and Work Plan;
- Submitting the six-monthly Project Progress Reports (PPRs) with the AWP/B to the FAO GEF Unit;
- Preparing the first draft of the Project Implementation Review (PIR);
- Supporting the organization of the mid-term review and final evaluation in close coordination with the FAO Budget Holder and the FAO Independent Office of Evaluation (OED);
- Inform the PSC and FAO Budget Holder of any delays and difficulties as they arise during the implementation to ensure timely corrective measure and support.

Overall quality and fiduciary assurance will be provided by the Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO (Budget Holder), with technical support provided by the [Divisional Support and Project Cycle Unit]. Additional technical support will be provided, as it is the case for all FAO-implemented projects, by a Project Task Force that comprises staff from the Fisheries Division who could offer technical expertise on matters relevant to the GCP.

The KMC team in the GCP will be composed of long-term consultants, working part-time on the Program. See section 8 for a full description of the approach on KMC

The M&E Expert will work part-time for the GCP and will also assist project level M&E to ensure consistency and quality tracking and reporting. Section 9 provides a full description of the activities to be conducted by the M&E expert.

To facilitate harmonization of the approaches and communication between the child projects and the GCP, the programmatic KMC and M&E experts will work closely with relevant child project partners. The Executing Agencies of the Tuna and the Deep-Sea have agreed to collaborate with the GCP to have the team supporting project and program level activities as needed.

The time sharing with other projects of the part-time personnel assigned to the PCU will be coordinated in close collaboration between the Program Coordinator and FAO?s Divisional Support and Project Cycle Unit.

Inception Workshop

An Inception Workshop will take place as close as possible to the beginning of the Program with participation of the implementing and executing agencies, as well as key partners, to establish the Program Steering Committee, agree on the specific details of the coordination mechanisms, as well as a Knowledge Management and Communications strategy, and arrangements for a cohesive programmatic Monitoring and Evaluation plan.

6.b Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Coordination with other child projects under the Common Oceans Program

This coordination support will be of fundamental importance in permitting flows of knowledge and best practices among child projects. The projects, all working with different elements of ABNJ management, will each contribute to address the issues affecting ABNJ management identified in the programmatic Theory of Change.

As described in section 1.C, the child projects have agreed during the consultation to embrace a series of principles that will govern the coordination and joint work under the programmatic framework.

Additional external projects with which child projects will coordinate are identified in their respective child Project Documents.

International Framework.

UNCLOS. The 2nd Phase Tuna Project is firmly rooted in the relevant global framework. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) plays a central role in addressing issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction as manifest in 1972 UNGA resolution 72/73 on oceans and the law of the sea and its preambular paragraphs on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) complemented by subsequent legal instruments (e.g., the Agreement on Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in 1982 and the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in Port State Measures in 2009).

BBNJ. While UNCLOS set forth the rights and obligations of states regarding the use of the oceans, their resources, and the protection of the marine and coastal environment, it did not refer specifically to marine biodiversity. Following more than a decade of discussions convened under the UNGA, in 2017 the UNGA decided to convene an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to elaborate the text of an International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). The four elements covered by the ILBI package, identified in an earlier ad hoc UN working group in 2011, are:

(i) marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits; (ii) measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; (iii) environmental impact assessment; and (iv) capacity building and the transfer of marine technology.

The IGC was mandated to meet for four sessions; the first three sessions were held in September 2018, March 2019, and August 2019, respectively. During the last session (IGC-3), delegates delved for the first time, into textual negotiations based on a ?zero draft? containing treaty text developed by the IGC President. The fourth session had been scheduled for March 2020, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To keep the momentum towards reaching agreement on a draft text a virtual intersessional work programme was launched in September 2020. The UNGA decision 75/570, noting with concern the continued situation concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), postponed IGC-4 until the earliest possible available date in 2022 and likely will be tasked with a further revision of the draft text on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of ABNJ.

This process and on-going negotiations are likely to have significant implications for both the RFMOs and the management of high seas fish stocks. During the BBNJ negotiations, it has been argued that fishing activities could represent a threat to biodiversity. Although many of these activities are regulated under the UNCLOS and UNFSA provisions, the new agreement should address and understand the contribution of fisheries to the cumulative anthropogenic impacts on marine biodiversity. This will require the achievement of effective and sustainable cross-sectoral cooperation towards a better governance of natural resources in the ABNJ.

Under the earlier first phase Program, the Capacity Project together with the Tuna I provided essential information to BBNJ negotiators and contributed to beginning to build bridges between fisheries and environment communities that are essential in the BBNJ negotiations.[1]

Collaboration between the BBNJ process and the GEF-7 Program and projects will continue occurring primarily through: (i) support for more effective compliance and enforcement of fisheries regulations, (ii) development and promotion of adoption of best-practices for sustainable management of ABNJ resources, (iii) contributions to and coordination with the BBNJ process as it continues to evolve and develop in the future, (iv) providing support for sustainably sourced ABNJ products with emphasis on greater transparency and traceability leading to reductions of IUU products in the market and (v) leveraging increased public and private support and investment in the sustainable management of the ABNJ.

SDGs. Building on the success of the earlier Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the United Nations? Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. Of the 17 SDGs, Goal 14 is most relevant to the GEF-7 Project (see Table 1).

Table 1. UNSDGs and Targets to Which the Project Contributes

SDG Goal	Targets	Project-supported Contributions
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.	14.4. by 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics	- contribute to this target through its support of activities that would strenghthen the management of ABNJ fisheries by promoting incentives and best practices leading to sustainable behaviors.
	14.c. - enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want.	? - the projects of the Common Oceans Program are firmly rooted in the relevant global framework. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) plays a central role in addressing issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction as manifest in 1972 UNGA resolution 72/73 on oceans and the law of the sea and its preambular paragraphs on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) complemented by subsequent legal instruments (e.g., the Agreement on Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in 1982 and the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in Port State Measures in 2009). Addressing these issues is consistent with UNCLOS and also links to SDG and BBNJ goals

The year 2020 was to represent a critical opportunity for the global community to support events and processes leading to a sustainable future for the global ocean; a goal to which the proposed GEF-7 Common Oceans ABNJ Program and Project would directly contribute. These included in particular the 2020 United Nations Ocean Conference (directly targeting the scaling up of efforts to achieve the aforementioned SDG 14) and the 15th meeting of CBD?s COP (expected to adopt a new post-2020 global biodiversity framework that would likely include key priorities and objectives for the marine and coastal biodiversity). Unfortunately the Conference which was to highlight much needed science-based innovative solutions aimed at starting a new chapter of global ocean action and accelerate progress towards the achievement of SDG 14 by 2030 was postponed, now to 2022 due to Covid-19. The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) said in a statement that COP15, the biggest

biodiversity summit in a decade, has now been moved to October 2021 due to delays related to the coronavirus pandemic.[2]

However, as 2020 marked the deadline for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and SDG, a new global framework for biodiversity (GFB) was needed to carry the global community into the future with a view to achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. CBD?s Secretariat is presently in the process of implementing a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In anticipation, the CBD Secretariat has made available a draft of the GBF. The GBF has four long-term goals for 2050. Of these the Project will most directly contribute to Goal A and the following relevant action-oriented targets for 2030 (Table 2).

Table 2. CBD GBF Goals, Milestones and Targets to Which the Proposed Project Contributes.

GBF Goal	Targets	Illustrative Project-supported Contributions
Goal A. The integrity of all ecosystems is enhanced, with an increase of at least 15 per cent in the area, connectivity and integrity of natural ecosystems, supporting healthy and resilient populations of all species, the rate of extinctions has been reduced at least tenfold, and the risk of species extinctions across all taxonomic and functional groups, is halved, and genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species is safeguarded, with at least 90 per cent of genetic diversity within all species maintained	4. Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.	Promote awareness of issues related to the conservation of biological diversity in the ABNJ in the context of RFMOs. Encourage collaboration to transfer information about the ABNJ across sectors engaged in the utilization of ABNJ resources
	5. Ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health.	Support dissemination of best practices and lessons learned with the support of the private sector
	7. Reduce pollution from all sources to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health, including by reducing nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste.	Start a collaboration with the private sector to develop a plan for reducing the carbon impact of the fisheries supply chains, starting with the harvesting sector.

Countries are expected to reach an agreement over targets to protect the natural world, including proposals to conserve 30% of the world?s oceans and land by 2030, introduce controls on invasive species and reduce plastics pollution. To achieve the needed synergies the GEF-7 Common Oceans ABNJ Program and Tuna Project has reflected contributions to several of the likely targets to be adopted it its design.

Regional Frameworks.

Within the aforementioned UNCLOS framework, provision was made for the then existing RFMOs; critical partners together with FAO responsible for some of the many achievements logged under the GEF-5 project. In addition to these regional bodies, the successful GEF-5 Program was supported by a large and diversified group of stakeholders encompassing most of the sector?s main stakeholders. These included institutions from the private sector, NGOs, national governments and regional organizations. It is intended that the GEF-7 Program will build on the strong network of partnerships, experience and lessons-learned derived from the first phase, leading to more effective and transformative activities. In particular the GCP Project will support activities to strengthen further the compact of partners to include additional members in particular broadening representation from civil society, private sector and foundations (see component 3 of this project).

GEF Cape Town Workshop. Among some of the main recommendations stemming from GEF Cape Town Workshop in 2017[3] that the Project will support are the following: (i) the ecosystem approach is an essential condition for the continued long term science-based collaboration in regional ocean governance and that continuing and strengthening collaboration is needed, while also including social and economic elements; (ii) capacity development, including institutional strengthening, is needed for implementing the Ecosystem Approach; (iii) interactions among relevant stakeholders towards better regional ocean governance should make use of best existing practices and respect existing mandates; (iv) there is a need for open access scientific knowledge as a foundation for policy on all levels; (v) a mechanism to translate science into policy is needed; and (vi) the need to recognize the importance of interregional collaboration for sharing lessons learned / experience and to create synergy among regional initiatives and/or activities.

LMEs The ABNJ are also characterized by a number of complex ecosystems that include pelagic waters, seamounts, submarine ridges and the seafloor itself and also abut or encompass sections of most of the world?s Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) that extend beyond national jurisdictions. The Project will collaborate in and contribute to the Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis/Strategic Action Plan (TDA/SAP) process where issues arise with regard to sustainable management of tuna stocks in particular where stocks pass between ABNJ and adjacent waters covered by an LME. Information will be shared with respective regional management authorities through the project website and the IW:LEARN network (see below).

IW:LEARN is the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network. The IW:LEARN Project was established to strengthen transboundary water management around the globe by collecting and sharing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions to common problems across the GEF International Waters portfolio. It promotes learning among project managers, country official, implementing agencies, and other partners. In the aforementioned Cape Town Workshop, GEF noted it was willing to assist in building the information-sharing platform through its IW:LEARN network. Clearly the proposed GEF-7 Program and Project could contribute to this and continue its successful collaboration with IW:LEARN in the GEF-7. Specifically a minimum of one percent of the GEF grant in support of this Project will be used to support the production of a website in conformity with IWLEARN guidance, at least two experience notes, participation in IW Conferences held during the project implementation period as well as tropical and regional events hosted by IW:LEARN.

GEF-financed Projects and Initiatives. Recent global and regional GEF-supported projects have been provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Recent GEF-supported Projects Relevant to the GCP Project(GEF ID 10626) and the Common Oceans ABNJ Program (GEF ID 10548)

Project title/Country	Description	Lead Agency	GEF Focal Areas	GEF Funding (million US$)	Coordination approach
Mainstreaming climate change and ecosystem-based approaches into the sustainable management of the highly migratory fish stocks of the West and Central Pacific Ocean (OFMP3 ? GEF ID 10394)	The third Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFMP) builds on the outcomes and achievements of the first two projects and will focus especially on identifying and managing the impacts of climate change and taking an ecosystem approach to managing the Pacific?s tuna fisheries through regional, sub-regional and national processes. The three main objectives of the OFMP3 are to (i) improve and strengthen management strategies and mechanisms for the ecosystem and its living marine resources; (2) strengthen and expand scientific monitoring to support improved management and understanding of the ecosystem and its living marine resources; and (iii) build capacity and train to improve management of the ecosystem and its living marine resources in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission(WCPFC) Area.	UNDP	IW	10,0	- IW:LEARN exchange mechanism; knowledge products and events; -Project website; - Project communication activities (outreach and awareness-raising materials and events) - WCPFC meetings

Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI) ? Program (GEF ID 9060)	The Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI) is a global effort to preserve marine resources and ensure that coastal fisheries can continue to play their crucial role in society, contributing to food security, as well as economic and social development. Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the initiative rallies UN agencies and international conservation organizations behind the common goal of promoting the sustainable use and management of coastal fisheries, championing innovative approaches to improve governance and strengthening the seafood value chain. CFI capitalizes on growing political will for reform in fisheries governance and management. It contributes to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14 on conservation and sustainable use of the ocean, seas and marine resources.	FAO, UNDP, UNDP, WB, WWF	IW, BD	33.7	- IW:LEARN exchange mechanism; knowledge products and events; -Project website; - Project communication activities (outreach and awareness-raising materials and events)
Blue Nature Alliance to Expand and Improve Conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of Ocean Ecosystems (GEF ID 10375)	The project objective (PO) is to catalyze the effective conservation of at least 1.25 billion hectares of ocean (approximately 3.5 percent of the global ocean), in order to safeguard global ocean biodiversity, build resilience to climate change, promote human wellbeing, and enhance ecosystem connectivity and function.	CI	IW	22.6	- IW:LEARN exchange mechanism; knowledge products and events; -Project website; - Project communication activities (outreach and awareness-raising materials and events)

Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP ? GEF ID 6970)	The PO is to strengthen the shared management of selected Pacific Island oceanic and coastal fisheries, and the critical habitats upon which they depend. The project components are: (i) sustainable management of oceanic fisheries component will help participating PICs to strengthen the management of the region's PS and LL tuna fisheries; (ii) sustainable management of coastal fisheries; (iii) sustainable financing of the conservation of critical fishery habitats component; this component also provides climate change co-benefits by supporting mitigation.	WB	BD, IW	6.3	- IW:LEARN exchange mechanism; knowledge products and events; -Project website; - Project communication activities (outreach and awareness-raising materials and events)
Addressing Marine Plastics ? A Systemic Approach (GEF ID 9681)	The project is aimed to seed the development of a circular economy for plastics, simultaneously engaging major stakeholder groups along the entire plastics value chain to explore synergies, frame a common vision, and identify priority actions to address marine plastics using the best available science and best practices. The 4 components are: (i) establishing a global platform to redesign plastics from inception; (ii) mobilizing investment capital, science, governments and civil society, in implementing effective waste management solutions to address massive waste streams in South and Southeast Asia; (iii) identification of priority intervention points and designing a strategic framework for addressing marine plastics; and (iv) project coordination.	UNEP	IW	2 .0	- IW:LEARN exchange mechanism; knowledge products and events; -Project website; - Project communication activities (outreach and awareness-raising materials and events)

Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (SWIOFish3 ? GEF ID 9563)	The PO is to improve management of marine areas and fisheries in targeted zones and strengthen fisheries value chains in the Seychelles. It comprises four components: (i) expansion of sustainable?use marine protected areas; (ii) improved governance of priority fisheries and (iii) sustainable development of the blue economy focusing on increased value addition in the aquaculture, industrial, semi-industrial, and artisanal fishing and processing sectors.	WB	IW, BD	10.3	- IW:LEARN exchange mechanism; knowledge products and events; -Project website; - Project communication activities (outreach and awareness-raising materials and events)
Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Black Sea (FishEBM BS ? GEF ID 10558)	The project, to be executed by the GFCM, will support Georgia, Turkey, and Ukraine in the Black Sea in developing Blue Economy pathways through an ecosystem-based management approach. During project preparation the main issues will be identified requiring technical support, upscale regional fisheries networks, as well as promote and disseminate sustainable management practices with a specific focus on small-scale fisheries and value chains.	FAO	IW	5.0	- IW:LEARN exchange mechanism; knowledge products and events; -Project website; - Project communication activities (outreach and awareness-raising materials and events)
Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean (FishEBM MED ? GEF ID 10560)	The PO is similar to the above but focused on Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey in the Mediterranean	FAO	BD, IW	7.3	- IW:LEARN exchange mechanism; knowledge products and events; -Project website; - Project communication activities (outreach and awareness-raising materials and events)

Mainstreaming Climate Change and Ecosystem-based Approaches into the Sustainable Management of the Living Marine Resources of the WCPFC (GEF ID-10394)	The PO is to implement 2019 SAP for the sustainable management of living oceanic resources by the Pacific SIDS to address the primary and emerging threats, particularly CC. Project components are: (i) implementation of an adaptive EBA to regional fisheries management; (ii) innovative technology development and implementation to support adaptive EBA to regional fisheries management; (iii) regional strategy for improved community subsistence and resilience to CC effects on the ecology and fisheries of the region and (iv) KM and sharing.	UNDP	IW	10.0	- IW:LEARN exchange mechanism; knowledge products and events; -Project website; - Project communication activities (outreach and awareness-raising materials and events)
Sustainable Management of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Programme (GEF ID 9909)	The PO is to contribute to sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region, to reduce environmental stress and improve environmental status for the benefit of coastal states and communities. The project will be implemented 5 Components: (i) Sustainable Management of Fisheries; (ii) Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats and conservation of biodiversity; (iii) Management of coastal and marine pollution to improve ecosystem health; (iv) Improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience of the BOBLME; and (v) regional mechanism for planning, coordination and monitoring of the BOBLME (includes IUU and EAF).	FAO	IW,CC	9.5	- IW:LEARN exchange mechanism; knowledge products and events; -Project website; - Project communication activities (outreach and awareness-raising materials and events)

Benefits of coordination with GEF-funded initiatives. The benefits of coordination with the GEF-funded initiatives listed in Table 13 reside in their engagement on issues of interest for the GCP and the Common Oceans Program in general, where a collaboration might be advantageous from a technical point of view or policy connected with tuna fisheries, or one of the related areas, such as implementation of ecosystem approach and adaptation to climate change (e.g. OFMP3, FishEBM, GEF ID 10394), biodiversity conservation (PROP, Blue Nature Alliance, SWIOFish3, BOBLME), reduction of pollution (GEF ID 9681). By maintaining mutual awareness and two-way communications, the lessons learned by these initiatives will enrich the Program and ensure benefits for all stakeholders.

Non-GEF initiatives in the ABNJ. There are some examples of non-GEF initiatives in the ABNJ that are relevant, among them:

? The STRONG High Seas Project coordinated by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) with support from a number of partners, aims at providing decision-makers with improved knowledge and understanding on high seas biodiversity. The Project engages with stakeholders from governments, private sector, science and civil society to develop together, based on their scientific work, ecosystem-based, cross-sectoral approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Southeast Atlantic and Southeast Pacific and brings these proposed approaches to the attention of the relevant regional policy processes.

? The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), that promotes cooperation in the Pacific region and provides assistance in order to protect and conserve the environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations. Based in Samoa, SPREP has 26 member governments including 21 Pacific island countries and territories. As outlined in the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026, climate change resilience is its principal concern and oceans is a cross cutting theme. Other priority areas include: island and ocean ecosystems; environmental monitoring and governance; and waste management and pollution control.

? The FISH4ACP Project aimed at enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of fish value chains, while ensuring environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness. FISH4ACP is coordinated by FAO with funding from the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). FISH4ACP aims to support the sustainable development of the purse seine tuna value chain in the Marshall Islands by stimulating onshore post-harvest and value-addition activities, as well as by facilitating access to export markets.
In these cases, the Projects during the GEF-5 Common Oceans maintained contacts and

coordinated when necessary, participating in some of their meetings. For the GEF-7 we expect to continue with these contacts and explore, once the activities start the possibility of developing further synergies. Given the broader focus of most of these initiatives, that go beyond the focus on regional tuna fisheries management, many of these future contacts will be initiated from the Global Coordination Project in its role as clearinghouse for the activities of the Common Oceans program, but it anticipates the participation of Project staff and partners as the nature of the coordination requires.

The same strategy of utilizing the Common Oceans KMC strategy, at Program and Project levels, will be used for communicating and seeking synergies, coordinating with other global and regional initiatives (e.g. Regional Seas Programs, OSPAR, GEF?s Large Marine Ecosystems Projects, etc.)

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[1] The Regional Leaders Program provided information to potential negotiators from 34 countries. The project also collaborated with the STRONG HS Project on the specific issue of enhanced MCS tools and policies with a view to improving regional coordination and providing new lessons and approaches for HS governance. The Capacity and the Tuna Projects under COP I also supported activities to increase public awareness on ABNJ-related issues through dialogues and side events at the UN, a workshop for media, and two cross-sectoral workshops, and supported the integration of fisheries officials into national delegations at the meetings of the IGC.
[2] It was initially intended that the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) would adopt the post-2020 GBF. Due to Covid19 this was postponed from October 2020 until 2021. Moreover, parties to the three biodiversity agreements (CBD and Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols) held extraordinary meetings to ensure operations could continue in 2021, and concluded with the adoption of an interim budget for 2021.
[3] GEF, UNDP, IOC/UNESCO,UNEP, and FAO. 2017. Building international partnerships to enhance science-based ecosystems approaches in support of regional ocean governance. Meeting Report. 27-28th November, 2017. Cape Town, SA.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The focus of the GCP on support the child projects on strengthening the inter-governmental initiatives on fisheries management that extend to the ABNJ, with emphasis on capacity building and cross-sectoral participation in the BBNJ process. This goal is consistent with the national priorities of all member States of the RFMOs engaged in the ABNJ. Similarly, it is believed that given the nature of the activities they will also be consistent with the country?s respective National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD and national legislation, governance and provisions for environmental and social risk management.

The activities are essentially channeled through the RFMOs. No final determination of any countries have been made. It is possible that some activities will be conducted in the context of a member but all member countries of an RFMO have indicated their support through letters of support and letters of co-financing through the RFMO Secretariats.

On the alignment with the regional and global discourse, The Project is aligned with the main mechanisms of inter-State cooperation in fisheries management in the International Waters: the RFMOs. The child projects will help member States of RFMOs better fulfil their obligations under ?The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)?, in particular Articles 116 to 119 on conservation and management of the living resources of the high seas and other relevant articles. The GCP will also support global calls to reduce as much as possible the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, as specifically requested in various international fisheries instruments such as the ?Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (the Compliance Agreement)?, the ?Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing (Port State Measures Agreement)?, the ?Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code)? and the ?International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (IPOA-IUU)?.

The GCP also supports child projects in addressing to concerns from various meetings of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) about the serious threats posed by IUU fishing and bycatch to marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, in particular in relation to overfishing.

The Project will help member States of RFMOs better fulfil their obligations under ?The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)?, in particular Articles 116 to 119 on conservation and management of the living resources of the high seas and other relevant articles. The Project will also address global calls to reduce as much as possible the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, as specifically requested in various international fisheries instruments such as the ?Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (the Compliance Agreement)?, the ?Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing (Port State Measures Agreement)?, the ?Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code)? and the ?International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (IPOA-IUU)?.

The Project also responds to concerns from various meetings of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) about the serious threats posed by IUU fishing and bycatch to marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, in particular in relation to overfishing.

The Project vision is also consistent with several of the recommendations from a joint LME-Regional Seas program-ABNJ workshop in 2017 including that:

- The ecosystem approach is an essential condition for the continued long-term science-based collaboration in regional ocean governance and that continuing and strengthening collaboration is needed, while also including social and economic elements;
- Capacity development, including institutional strengthening, is needed for implementing the Ecosystem Approach;
- Interactions among relevant stakeholders towards better regional ocean governance should make use of best existing practices and respect existing mandates;

- There is a need of open access scientific knowledge as a foundation for policy on all levels;
- There is a need for a mechanism to translate science into policy;
- The need to recognize the importance of interregional collaboration for sharing lessons learned / experience and to create synergy among regional initiatives and/or activities; and
- Recognition that trans-boundary interactions between LMEs, Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries Bodies and adjacent high seas areas are critically important. Therefore a cross-cutting, multi-sectoral interactive process is needed to identify what the priority issues are for LMEs and ABNJ, who might be the key partners, and what potential conflicts and synergies there may be with other stakeholders.

The Project (largely through its cooperation with the Cross-Sectoral Child Project of the Common Oceans Program) will also support the ongoing UN-led process to develop (and ultimately to implement) the new legal instrument for the conservation of BBNJ and its eventual implementation of the resulting Agreement through building functional capacity (planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating) for sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation, coordination and information exchange, especially within RFMOs, RSPs, LME Programs, and other relevant regional organizations, including their secretariats and member state focal points.

Also of note is the contribution that IOC UNESCO Decade on Ocean Science, starting on 2021, will make to research on science that will improve the general knowledge on ocean processes that the child projects might contribute to.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

Programmatic approach to knowledge management and communication

The management of knowledge[1] and its effective communication are integral to the GEF-7 Common Oceans ABNJ Program. There will be a coordinated programmatic approach to the knowledge management (KM) and communication (KMC) to ensure coherence, harmonized action and linkages across the child projects that make up the Program. The Program?s overall approach to KM is to support flow of Program and individual child project results, lessons learned and best practices and other knowledge products, to, and from, both global, regional and national policy and decision-making processes (such as RFMO science-management committees, BBNJ process), as well as exchange of knowledge between child projects and global repositories of relevant information (such as IW:LEARN), while harmonizing knowledge management within the child projects and across the Program as a whole. To do this the Program will utilize its main partners and others as information conduits and platforms and build on existing lessons and best practices, including from GEF-5, as well as on relevant lessons from other relevant projects, programs, initiatives and evaluations.

The KM strategy is a key element of the Program?s coordinated programmatic approach which will help promote two-way interaction between program and project levels and ensure harmonized action, strong coherence and linkages between all levels, and ensure that projects ?talk to each other? as well as help foster partner ownership of Program activities and results. KM activities will tap into Program partners?

platforms and their networks, and be carried out in close consultation with all program partners and their respective knowledge management services.

The Program will also help enhance South-South, North-South and regional and international cooperation on and access to scientific, technological knowledge for decision-making and enhance knowledge sharing on mutual issues, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms. The involvement of three UN agencies ? FAO, UNEP and UNDP ? should help facilitate the management and sharing of knowledge across a large group of partners. Other global initiatives, such as the Sustainable Oceans Initiative (SOI), the World Ocean Council[2] and the UN Global Compact[3] will also be engaged to assist in information dissemination and outreach.

The Program KMC approach will promote two-way interaction between the individual child projects, and support a flow of information, results, lessons learned, best practices and other knowledge products within and beyond the Program, to stakeholders and relevant policy and decision-making processes (such as RFMO science-management committees and the BBNJ process).

The Program KMC efforts will be instrumental in constructing, in conjunction with the Program Coordination Unit and on the basis of the inputs provided by the child projects, a clear narrative of how the child projects contribute to the achievement of the programmatic objectives. This narrative will demonstrate how the Program?s impacts exceed what the individual projects could achieve.

The Program KMC efforts will contribute to the uptake and scaling of impacts by ensuring that lessons learned through the child projects are effectively systematized, fed into relevant knowledge hubs (such as IW:LEARN) and disseminated to target audiences. In doing so, the Program will help to fill knowledge gaps at global, regional and national levels and support the creation of knowledge sources that will help improve availability and use of data and science by the public and private sector, and in turn support better, more informed decision-making on sustainable utilization of ABNJ resources.

A minimum of one percent (1%) of the GEF grant in support of this Program will be allocated to IW:LEARN, the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network, established to strengthen transboundary water management worldwide by collecting and sharing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions to common problems across the GEF International Waters portfolio. IW:LEARN promotes learning among project managers, country officials, implementing agencies, and other partners.

The proposed GEF-7 Program and Projects will continue their successful collaboration with IW:LEARN, mobilizing funds allocated to IW:LEARN activities to contribute to the information-sharing platform, which the GEF noted it was willing to assist in building through its IW:LEARN network at the 2017 Cape Town Workshop. Funds allocated to IW:LEARN under this Program will also be used to support sharing of best practices and lessons learned across the GEF International Waters portfolio through the development and management of a Program website in conformity with IWLEARN guidance. At least two experience notes and one results note will be produced, while the Program Coordination Unit (PCU) will participate in IW Conferences held during the project implementation period, as well as in regional events hosted by IW:LEARN.

Strategy and organization of KMC within the Program

A GCP KMC Strategy will underpin and support the generation, dissemination and application of information and knowledge from the Program and set out a common analytical framework to organize and analyze information gathered by the projects. Furthermore, it will provide guidance on how to collect and share best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions to ABNJ issues across the Program, and ensure that key target programmatic audiences are kept informed of both the Program and child project objectives, activities and achievements while providing support, if so requested, to the child projects to achieve their project-level objectives.

A key aspect of the project KM approach is leveraging existing platforms and communities of practice as a means to contribute to the global body of knowledge on the effectiveness of different approaches to address threats and barriers to sustainable management of ABNJ resources. The Program and child projects will contribute to sustained uptake and scaling out of impacts by ensuring that lessons learned through the child projects are effectively systematized and fed into knowledge hubs and disseminated to stakeholders both within and beyond the Program. In doing so, the Program will help to fill knowledge gaps at global, regional and national levels and support the creation of larger more relevant knowledge sources (relevant to more stakeholders) that will help improve availability and use of data and science by the public, decision- and policy-makers, and private sector and in turn support better, more informed decision-making on sustainable utilization of ABNJ resources.

The KMC Strategy builds on acknowledged best practices widely employed by FAO, such as the Knowledge Sharing Toolkit[4] and is in line with the principles of the FAO Knowledge Strategy (2011) and GEF?s Knowledge Management Strategy and associated guidance[5][5]. It also takes recent experiences of other FAO-GEF programs where KMC activities have had a significant focus into consideration.

Mindful of the Program KMC Strategy, each child project will develop its own KMC Strategy, to ensure that their target audiences are aware of project objectives, activities and achievements, and that processes are put in place to facilitate the synthesis, exchange and uptake of project-specific lessons learned, best practices, and expertise generated during project implementation.

To assist in the delivery of program-level outcomes, support will be provided by the Global Coordination Project (GCP), via the PCU and a dedicated KMC team. The PCU KMC team will advise and lead on program-level KMC activities and coordinate the exchange between the child projects to enable coordinated and cohesive awareness-raising of the Program as a whole, while also allowing effective outreach at project level to ensure that it meet their needs for KMC.

Role of the Project

Program?s KMC efforts will be organized by the GCP, via the PCU and the dedicated PCU KMC team, so that the KMC strategies and resources for implementation are coordinated and jointly developed in line with the program-level KMC approach. This will strengthen the programmatic identity and perception, ensure harmonized actions, coherent program-wide messaging and optimize possible synergies and beneficial impacts on both Program and project levels.

The role of the GCP is central to the implementation of the Program KMC Strategy as it will capture, present and communicate results, experiences and lessons learned both within the Program , as well as to external audiences in consistent and accessible formats. Essentially it acts as the coordinator and conduit for information flow coming into and out of the Program with a coherent, coordinated program-wide lesson learning process that will ensure that lessons learned through the individual child projects are collected, collated and analyzed and disseminated among child projects and to program partners, other stakeholders and national, regional and global knowledge hubs.

A Program-level KMC Strategy will be drafted by the KMC team during the inception phase in consultation with the implementing agencies and relevant partners and describe the modalities of the programmatic KMC, as well as proposing harmonized practices across child projects, such as programmatic branding and visibility.

The KMC Strategy, once adopted, will be implemented with the partners in a comprehensive collaborative fashion approach to ensure the best possible generation and leveraging of knowledge resources at all levels across the Program, and contributing to the added value of the programmatic approach.

Program-level KMC products and activities will be developed collaboratively, tapping into available resources of Program partners and existing relevant networks and knowledge-sharing platforms (including IW:LEARN). Add examples, as per details in component 2.

The PCU KMC team will provide, if so requested, ?support services? to the individual child projects such as the development of project-specific KMC Strategies, customized training and technical assistance on KMC to child project implementation teams and common learning areas.. These may include support for the development of effective communication materials to strengthen the enabling environment, specific KM services to technical elements of child projects (depending on the needs of individual child projects), support in communications for building cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination processes, and effective messaging and narratives for raising awareness among civil society and decision-makers.

In collaboration with the FAO e-learning Academy, the KMC will also support the development of online KMC tools, including tools to facilitate courses and material to advance program and child projects requirements on capacity building, taking advantage of already existing facilities for global distribution in multiple languages.

KMC activities will be recorded for reporting purposes, to support the monitoring and adaptive management of the Project. They will feed into project and program reports, which contain detailed descriptions of the activities, following the reporting requirements of the relevant implementing agencies and the GEF. At the same time, reporting of KMC activities will follow the project and program results framework, to ensure that the KMC efforts are an integral part of both project and program M&E strategy and plan.

For a successful implementation of the KMC strategy, supporting the generation, dissemination and application of information and knowledge within a common framework to organize and analyze information gathered by the projects, to collect and share best practices and lessons learned, and to keep target audiences informed of both the Program and child project objectives, activities and achievements, the following timeline and deliverables are are scheduled under Component 2.

Knowledge management, communications and outreach, and capacity building for effective and integrated sustainable use of the ABNJ					
Activities	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**Year 5**
Program KMC Strategy	Program KMC Strategy developed and implemented.	Program KMC Strategy implemented.	Program KMC Strategy implemented.	Program KMC Strategy implemented.	Program KMC Strategy implemented.
Knowledge management					
Stocktaking of existing knowledge products, tools and approaches supporting knowledge exchange on common areas of learning.	Document existing knowledge products, tools and approaches.				
Development of knowledge products and tools, including IW:LEARN experience and results notes.	Develop 1 knowledge product/tool (synthesis document, infographics).	Develop 1 knowledge product/tool (synthesis document, infographics). Produce 1 IW:LEARN Experience Note.	Develop 1 knowledge product/tool (synthesis document, infographics.	Develop 1 knowledge product/tool (synthesis documents, infographic). Produce 1 IW:LEARN Experience Note.	Develop 1 knowledge product/tool (synthesis document, infographics etc). Produce 1 IW:LEARN result note
Development and management of program knowledge-sharing hub integrated in program website.	Develop knowledge-sharing hub integrated in Program website.	Manage system and contents.	Manage system and contents.	Manage system and contents.	Manage system and contents.

Facilitation and organization of knowledge-sharing exchanges, including IW:LEARN project-to-project ?twinning? exchanges, events and the biennial IW Conference.	Facilitate participation in, or organization of 1 knowledge-sharing exchanges, including IW:LEARN events	Facilitate participation in, or organization of 1 knowledge-sharing exchanges, including IW:LEARN events	Facilitate participation in, or organization of 1 knowledge-sharing exchanges, including IW:LEARN events	Facilitate participation in, or organization of 1 knowledge-sharing exchanges, including IW:LEARN events	Facilitate participation in, or organization of 1 knowledge-sharing exchanges, including IW:LEARN events
Coordination of KMC activities across program, including organization of periodical KMC meetings, trainings and workshops.	Organize 1 program KMC meeting. 1 2-day program KMC workshop/trainings.	Organize 1 program KMC meeting	Organize 1 program KMC meeting for PMU+staff. 1 2-day program KMC workshop/trainings.	Organize 1 program KMC meeting	Organize 1 program KMC meeting 1 2-day program KMC workshop/trainings.
Facilitation of KMC support to the other child projects, including development of project specific KMC strategies, activities, products and trainings.	Provide KMC support to child projects.	Provide KMC support to child projects.	Provide KMC support to child projects.	Provide KMC support to child projects.	Provide KMC support to child projects.
Capacity building					
Develop capacity building tools, including online material through the facilities of the FAO e-learning	Produce 1 capacity building tool - e-learning material, synthesis document - and make available for stakeholders	Produce 1 capacity building tool - e-learning material, synthesis document - and make available for stakeholders	Produce 1 capacity building tool - e-learning material, synthesis document - and make available for stakeholders stakeholders	Produce 1 capacity building tool - e-learning material, synthesis document - and make available for stakeholders	Produce 1 capacity building tool - e-learning material, synthesis document - and make available for stakeholders

Facilitate uptake of capacity building tools among key actors.	Organise 1 targeted training - workshop, e-learning ? for key actors	Organise 1 targeted training - worksho, e-learning ? for key actors	Organise 1 targeted training - workshop, e-learning ? for key actors	Organise 1 targeted training - workshops, e-learning ? for key actors	Organise 1 targeted training - workshop, e-learning ? for key actors
Communications					
Development of program KMC Guidelines for consistent outreach and awareness raising,	Prepare program KMC Guidelines, including the ?Communication Compact?, ?Publications Manual? and ?Media Guide?.				
Development of program information, outreach and awareness-raising material and dissemination through program and partner channels and platform, including IW:LEARN network.	Develop 1 multimedia productions? videos, photos, web ? and 2 publications ? features, brochures, flyers ? and disseminate through program and partner channels and platform, including IW:LEARN network.	Develop 1 multimedia productions? videos, photos, web ? and 2 publications ? features, brochures, flyers ? and disseminate through program and partner channels and platform, including IW:LEARN network.	Develop 1 multimedia productions? videos, photos, web ? and 2 publications ? features, brochures, flyers ? and disseminate through program and partner channels and platform, including IW:LEARN network.	Develop 1 multimedia productions? videos, photos, web ? and 2 publications ? features, brochures, flyers ? and disseminate through program and partner channels and platform, including IW:LEARN network.	Develop 1 multimedia productions? videos, photos, web ? and 2 publications ? features, brochures, flyers ? and disseminate through program and partner channels and platform, including IW:LEARN network.
Participation in ANBJ related meetings and conferences at global, regional and national levels, including IW:LEARN events.	1-2 program staff participate in 1-2 external meetings	1-2 program staff participate in 1-2 external meetings	1-2 program staff participate in 1-2 external meetings	1-2 program staff participate in 1-2 external meetings	1-2 program staff participate in 1-2 external meetings

Development and management of dedicated program website.	Develop dedicated Program website. Manage website and update content.	Manage website and update content.	Manage website and update content.	Manage website and update content.	Manage website and update content.

Additional detail on GCP-specific deliverables, budget and timeline can be found in Annexes A1, A2 and H, respectively.

[1]Knowledge is defined here following GEF guidelines, as the understanding of a subject, in this case, the data generated through use of tools and approaches, other information gathered, experiences, lessons learned and best practices, related to the program. Knowledge Management (KM) is defined here as the systematic processes, or range of practices, used to identify, capture, store, create, update, represent, and distribute knowledge for use, awareness, and learning across the Program and to its partners and stakeholders. Knowledge Management Systems (KMS) are any kind of system that stores and retrieves knowledge, improves collaboration, locates knowledge sources, mines repositories for hidden knowledge, captures and uses knowledge or in some other way enhances the KM process. Based on (GEF 2015). GEF Knowledge Management Approach Paper

[2] https://www.oceancouncil.org/

[3] https://www.unglobalcompact.org/

[4] http://www.kstoolkit.org/home

[5] See Stocking, M. et al. (2018). Managing knowledge for a sustainable global future. Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. Washington, DC.; Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO), Evaluation of Knowledge Management in the GEF, Evaluation Report No. 123, Washington, DC: GEF IEO, 2018; GEF/C.48/07/Rev.01, GEF Knowledge Management Approach Paper (2015); The GEF Evaluation Policy 2019 (Unedited). GEF IEO. 30pp.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The Monitoring of this project will be two-pronged focusing on (i) programmatic progress against the Common Oceans Program Results Framework in line with the relevant outcomes of the programmatic Theory of Change, and (ii) project progress against the project results framework provided in Annex A1.

Project oversight and strategic guidance will be carried out by the Global Steering Committee (GSC) and FAO as the GEF agency (including the FAO GEF Coordination Unit, Technical Units in FAOHQ). Oversight will ensure that: (i) project outputs are produced in accordance with the project results framework and leading to the achievement of project outcomes; (ii) project outcomes are leading to the achievement of the project objective; (iii) risks are continuously identified and monitored and appropriate mitigation strategies are applied; and (iv) agreed project global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits are being delivered.

The M&E tasks and responsibilities, specifically described in the Monitoring and Evaluation table (Table 10), will be achieved through: (i) day-to-day monitoring of project progress (GCU); (ii) technical

monitoring of project and program indicators (GCU with inputs from all child projects); (iii) mid-term review and final evaluation (independent consultants and FAO Office of Evaluation); and (iv) oversight, monitoring and supervision missions (FAO), if necessary.

The programmatic results framework in line with relevant outcomes of the program TOC with indicators, baseline and targets will be based to the extent possible on the child projects? results frameworks and will be developed and agreed with the child projects once the projects have been endorsed by the GEF CEO.

An M&E Plan covering the program and the project will be prepared by the GCU in the first six months of the PY1 and validated with the GSC. The M&E Plan will include description of the indicators, responsibilities for data collection, validation and aggregation and templates for reporting.

The day-to-day monitoring of the project?s implementation will be the responsibility of the GCU with inputs from project executing partners and will be driven by the preparation and implementation of an AWP/B followed up through six-monthly PPRs.

Indicators. In order to monitor the outputs and outcomes of the project, a set of indicators is set out in the Project Results Framework (Annex A1) and the GEF Core indicators (Annex F). Following FAO monitoring procedures and progress reporting formats, data collected will be sufficiently detailed that can track specific outputs and outcomes, and flag project risks early on. Output target indicators will be monitored on a six-monthly basis, and outcome target indicators will be monitored on an annual basis, if possible, or as part of the mid-term review and final evaluations. The Common Oceans Program Results Framework will form the basis of the overall monitoring and evaluation of the Program. Key project indicators will feed into the programmatic M&E framework to monitor progress of the Common Oceans Program as a whole. Additional programmatic indicators might be developed, as needed.

FAO Supervision Missions. As a GEF Agency, FAO provides overall supervision and technical guidance, and will undertake supervision missions to project sites to provide technical backstopping, and they are also part of assurance activities including field visits to the project sites in a timely manner for monitoring the completion by the Operational Partners in accordance with the work plan, budgets, and progress towards producing the project outputs, particularly in cases where gaps or shortcomings are identified so to agree upon corrective actions and risk mitigation measures. These missions might not be necessary as there will be no OPA?s with executing partners

Reporting. Specific reports that will be prepared during project implementation are:

Project Inception Report. It is recommended that the GCU prepares a draft project inception report in consultation with the LTO, BH and project partners. Elements of this report should be discussed during the Project Inception Workshop and the report subsequently finalized. The report will include a narrative on the institutional roles and responsibilities and coordinating action of project partners, progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. It will also include a detailed first year AWP/B and a draft M&E plan. The draft inception report will be circulated to the GSC for review and comments before its finalization. The report should be cleared by the FAO BH, LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit.

Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B). The AWP/B will be linked to the project?s Results Framework indicators (Annex A1). and should include detailed activities to be implemented to achieve the project outputs and output targets and divided into monthly timeframes and targets and

milestone dates for output indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should also be included together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The AWP/B should be approved by the Project Steering Committee. The preparation of the AWP/B and six-monthly PPRs will represent the product of a unified planning process between main project executing partners. Once finalized, the AWP/B and the PPRs will be submitted to the FAO LTO for technical clearance, and to the Project Steering Committee for revision and approval.

Project Progress Reports (PPR). PPRs will be prepared by the GCU based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project?s Results Framework (Annex A1). The purpose of the PPR is to identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that impede timely implementation and to take appropriate remedial action in a timely manner. They will also report on projects risks and implementation of the risk mitigation plan. The Budget Holder has the responsibility to coordinate the preparation and finalization of the PPR, in consultation with the PCU, LTO and the Funding Liasion Officer (FLO). After LTO, BH and FLO clearance, the FLO will ensure that project progress reports are uploaded in FPMIS in a timely manner.

Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR). The BH (in collaboration with the GCU and the LTO) will prepare an annual PIR covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) to be submitted to the FAO GEF Coordination Unit FLO for review and approval within the indicated time frame. The FAO GEF Coordination Unit will submit the PIR to the GEF Secretariat and GEF Evaluation Office as part of the Annual Monitoring Review report of the FAO-GEF portfolio. PIRs will be uploaded on the FPMIS by the FAO GEF Coordination Unit.

Annual Programmatic Report: The PCU, with inputs from the child projects, will prepare a yearly programmatic report laying out progress towards the programmatic outcomes and potential areas for collaboration and learning to inform the GSC.

Technical Reports. Technical reports will be prepared by national, international consultants and project executing partners under LOAs) as part of project outputs and to document and share project outcomes and lessons learned. The drafts of any technical reports must be submitted to the respective executing partner and LTO for clearance. The LTO will be responsible for ensuring appropriate technical review and clearance of said reports. Technical reports that are to be published will be submitted to FAO for review and clearance in accordance with FAO rules and regulations on publications.

Co-financing Reports. The BH, with support from the GCU will be responsible for collecting the required information and reporting on co-financing as indicated in the Project Document/CEO Endorsement Request. The GCU will compile the information received from the executing partners and transmit it in a timely manner to the LTO and BH. The report, which covers the period 1 July through 30 June, is to be submitted on or before 31 July and will be incorporated into the annual PIR. The format and tables to report on co-financing can be found in the PIR.

GEF Core indicators. Following the GEF policies and procedures, the relevant GEF Core indicators will be submitted at three points: (i) with the project document at CEO endorsement, (ii) at Mid-term and (iii) with the project?s terminal evaluation or final completion report.

Terminal Report. Within two months before the end date of the project, the PMU will submit to the BH and LTO a draft Terminal Report. The main purpose of the Terminal Report is to give guidance at ministerial or senior government level on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project, and to provide the donor with information on how the funds were utilized. The Terminal Report is accordingly a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions and recommendations of the project, without unnecessary background, narrative or technical details. The target readership consists of persons who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for insuring sustainability of project results.

Executing partner reporting requirements are the responsibility of each partner and outlined in their individual contractual arrangements with FAO. The preparation of the consolidated reports covering the project as a whole for submission to FAO is a task of the PGU.

Evaluation Provisions. An independent mid-term review will be undertaken at the mid-point of project implementation. The review will determine progress being made towards achievement of objectives, outcomes, and outputs, and will identify corrective actions if necessary. The MTR will be decentralized and under the overall responsibility of the BH, who may call upon OED for guidance and support. The MTR will, *inter alia*: (i) review the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; (ii) analyse effectiveness of implementation and partnership arrangements; (iii) identify issues requiring decisions and remedial actions; (iv) identify lessons learned about project design, implementation and management; (v) highlight technical achievements and lessons learned; and (vi) propose any mid-course corrections and/or adjustments to the implementation strategy as necessary.

As per the FAO policy on evaluation, the FAO Offi?ce of Evaluation (OED) will conduct a fi?nal evaluation of the project, to be launched within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date). It will aim at identifying project outcomes, their sustainability and actual or potential impacts. It will also have the purpose of indicating future actions needed to assure continuity of the process developed through the project. FAO Office of Evaluation will conduct the evaluation in consultation with project stakeholders and the donor, and share with them the evaluation report, which is a public document.

Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Mid-term review and the Final Evaluation will be prepared by the GCU and finalized in close consultation with the FAO LTO, the GEF Coordination Unit, and under the ultimate responsibility of the FAO Office of Evaluation (OEDD), in accordance with FAO evaluation procedures and taking into consideration evolving guidance from the GEF Evaluation Office.

Table 10. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget (USD)
Inception Workshop	TBD	Within two months of project implementation start	0
Project Inception Report	TBD	Within two weeks of inception workshop	0

M&E plan including M&E matrix, description of the indicators, responsibilities for data collection, validation and aggregation and templates for reporting to guide partners during monitoring activities	M&E Officer with inputs from project executing partners	Within the first six month after inception	0
Global Steering Committee meetings	Program Manager	Annually	0
Documentation to Global Steering Committee	M&E Officer with inputs from project executing partners	Annually before the GSC meetings	0
Project Progress Reports (PPR)	M&E Officer with inputs from other child projects and project executing partners	6-monthly covering January-June July-December	0
Project Implementation Review report (PIR)	M&E Officer with inputs from other child projects and project executing partners	Annually (July)	0
Co-financing Reports	M&E Officer with inputs from other child projects and project executing partners	Annually	0
Annual Programmatic Report	M&E Officer with inputs from other child projects and project executing partners	Annually	0
Mid-term review (MTR)	The BH will be responsible for the decentralized independent MTR	At the mid point	30,000
Terminal Evaluation	FAO Office of Evaluation (OED)	To be launched within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date)	50,000
Terminal Report	M&E Officer	Within two months of project closure	6,650
Total			**86,650**

The Project will ensure transparency in the preparation, conduct, reporting and evaluation of its activities. This includes full disclosure of all non-confidential information, and consultation with major groups and representatives of local communities. The disclosure of information shall be ensured through posting on websites and dissemination of findings through knowledge products and events. Project reports will be broadly and freely shared, and findings and lessons learned made available.

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

As noted in the TE, the GEF-5 Common Oceans ABNJ Program (GEF ID 4580) showed the challenges in achieving an effective coordination among projects under a Program implemented by different agencies and with start of the implementation at points widely separated in time. The presence of a dedicated Global Coordination Project in the GEF-7 version of the Program is a realization that only through active coordination between the various and diverse projects it will be possible to achieve the programmatic outcomes.

Therefore, the main benefit of this project will be to enable the formulation of a cohesive approach to the challenges and threats that combines the vision of four very different projects, amplifying their individual impact.

In terms of socio-economic benefits, the emphasis of the Component 3 of the GCP, on the engagement of the private sector, will attract fresh ineterst and resources to creating sustainable utilization approaches consistent with the Blue Economy tenets of many of the member States of multi-lateral management organizations. Some of these initiatives will open the door of major markets to fishery products that can be certified, as proposed in the Component 3. Sustainable products that have facilitated access to major markets create a source of income supporting stability of the labor markets in the originating markets and throughout the value chain in general.

From the point of view of the programmatic goals that the GCP will contribute to deliver by all child projects, these aree consistent with the long-term vision for the new program is an ABNJ with a healthy ecosystem structure and function, with coordinated multi-sectoral processes providing support to address cumulative impacts and ensure a sustainable supply of ecosystem goods and services including long-term socio-economic benefits (both use and non-use values) to human populations. The Program?s objective to which the new GEF-7 Common Oceans ABNJ Program (GEF ID 10548) seeks to contribute is ?the sustainable use of ABNJ natural living resources and strengthened biodiversity conservation in the face of a changing environment?. The steps to achieve this goal and how the GEF-7 Common Oceans ABNJ Program expects to contribute to these, are set out in a simplified Theory of Change (ToC) graphic (see Figure 1).

The GEF-7 Common Oceans ABNJ Program (GEF ID 10548) aims to:

(i) Strengthen frameworks, processes and incentives for more effective governance and adaptive management, particularly of fisheries, in ABNJ;

(ii) Improve the capacity for participating States to more effectively implement integrated management, based on the ecosystem approach in the ABNJ (and considering their connectivity to coastal waters), including addressing science-based decision-making, compliance and enforcement issues, and mitigation of environmental impacts;

(iii) Support better coordination, collaboration and partnerships between the fisheries sector and other stakeholders and relevant initiatives with interests in ABNJ to promote more coherent integrated multi-sectoral action on ABNJ issues;

(iv) Improve awareness and understanding of the challenges and solutions to sustainable use of ABNJ, and encourage wider support and increased investment to address threats to, and sustainable management of, the ABNJ.

The Program recognizes that threats to marine life and natural systems in ABNJ come from multiple sectors, but the focus is on addressing fisheries management challenges, taking into account, as necessary, cumulative multi-sector impacts, connections with neighboring EEZ regions (including LMEs), and the need for better understanding of ABNJ issues and for cross-sectoral coordination. This acknowledges that the distribution and impacts of fisheries activities are more widespread and extensive than those of other sectors operating in ABNJ (e.g. seabed mining, which tends to be more localized), and there is a higher chance of fisheries interacting with users from other sectors (e.g, cabling, shipping, seabed mining), directly or via cumulative effects. This warrants a Program focus on fisheries but also the need for an integrated cross-sectoral approach. Tackling these issues requires a combination of program components addressing fisheries management issues, as well as others with a multi-sector focus.

The GEF-7 Common Oceans ABNJ Program will also contribute to the achievement of several of the goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The Agenda recognizes that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. The Program particularly contributes to SDG 14 (Life Below Water) - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and specifically its targets 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, 14.A and 14.C (contributions to relevant SDG targets are given in Annex D). There are a number of other SDGs that are also relevant to the sector including on climate change (SDG 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, notably targets 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, and 13.B) and SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, notably target 17.6).

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Low		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Environment Assessment. At the time of the PFD submission climate change and its adverse impact on marine ecosystems was the only environmental risk identified. Mitigation measures identified for possible support by the project included: awareness raising, capacity building and support for tracking ecosystem changes related to CC. No adverse social impacts resulting from the project were identified at time.

A further assessment was completed during project preparation. Applying FAO?s Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Field Projects the preparation team, working in close collaboration with each of the project partners in the design of their respective output-specific sub-projects (capsules), screened for specific adverse environmental impacts. Following individual consultation, during the continued development of the PRODOC the design team completed an initial environmental review and concluded that FAO?s relevant environmental risk category is ?low? defined by minimal or no adverse environmental and no further assessment is required.

Due to the nature of the activities planned by the GCP, the environmental risk is assessed to be low. The activities on Components 1 and 2 do not include field components, and most of the coordination and capacity building meetings are expected to be conducted virtually, reducing the carbon impact of extensive travel. Component 3 includes provision to start work to reduce the carbon footprint in the supply chains, in collaboration with the industry, starting with the operation of fishing fleets and fishing ports.

Social-economic Assessment. During the first phase of the Program, the TE determined that due to the absence of targeted socio-economic indicators, it was more difficult to estimate the socio-

economic impact of the Program. Nevertheless, the aforementioned environmental benefits were expected to also have contributed to the improvement of the socio-economic conditions in the target countries, enhancing food security and nutrition (Finding 19 of the TE).
The assessment of the socio-economic benefits for the GCP, following an initial impact review, lead to an assessment that FAO?s relevant socio-economic risk category is ?low? defined by minimal or no adverse socio-economic impacts. While a more in-depth assessment of gender issues in the project as part of the preparation of the GAP suggests that this rating should be increased to ?medium?, the GAP is intended to mitigate this risk. Most socio-economic benefits identified from sub-projects were positive with the possible exception of possible adverse effects on middlemen and middlewomen in the value chain associated with the introduction of new technologies.

Social & Environmental Risks and Impacts	Mitigation measures	Implementation Responsibility	Cost	Timeline
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management				
NA				
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats				
NA				
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
NA				
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
NA				
ESS 5: Pest And Pesticide Management				
NA				
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
NA				
ESS 7: Decent Work				
ESS 8: Gender Equality				
See Gender Analysis in Annex M	See GAP			
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
See Annex J				

At the national and local level there will be a certain number of pilot activities supported by the Project. However, for the most part these countries and sites have yet to be finalized (see Table 1).

Nevertheless, given the nature of the activities environmental and social impacts for the most part appear to be positive. Adverse impacts appear to be minimal. Regardless, an environmental and social review will be conducted by the PCU with support from FAO?s GEF Unit if need be during the process of finalization of each of these pilot activities. Where required, mitigation measures will be identified, costed and incorporated into final design of the activity.

Table 1. List of Potential Candidate Countries Proposed for Project-supported Activities

Country	Output	Nature of Activity	Potential Environmental / Social Impact and Scale	Mitigation Measures (if applicable)
Pacific SIDS (TBD)		- support for assessment and development of FIPs leading to meeting certification criteria of sustainability for 4 fisheries.	- improved fishing practices and sustainable fisheries and reduced environmental impacts	NA
Government of Fiji				

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
GCP_risk_certification_FAO	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Project Objective: to maximize the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of GEF-7 investments in the Common Oceans ABNJ program	GEF indicator 11: Direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (number, disaggregated by gender) GEF Indicator 7.4: Engagement in IW:Learn activities (level)	0	1,787 men 1,187 women At least level 3 engagement in IW:Learn activities	3,575 men 2,375 women At least level 3 engagement in IW:Learn activities	Logs of usage of online tools and courses, participant lists		PCU with inputs from project partners
Component 1: Programme coordination, monitoring and adaptive management							
Outcome 1.1 The Program and its child projects (including participating partners) are collaborative and adaptive, through an effective and synergistic programme.	Coordination meeting reports indicating progress (number)	0	15 (6/year)	30 (6/year)	Review of coordination meeting reports (to be produced by the PCU)	Coordination among the projects is conducted according to pre-agreed structure and frequency	PCU

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 1.1.1 Programme-wide coordination of actions that are common to two or more child-projects to ensure they are consistent and cohesive through bi-monthly coordination meetings	Programmatic coordination meetings, involving all child projects through virtual or in-person meetings (number)	0	15 [6/year]	30 [6/year]	Coordination meeting reports (to be produced by the PCU)	Project management units participating proactively in the coordination efforts and attending all meetings.	PCU
Outcome 1.2 Project partners, integrated and aligned on ten joint activities , where appropriate, to increase effectiveness of the interventions at Program and Child Project levels	Joint project activities agreed and implemented between two or more projects (number)	0	6	10	Review of program and project reports	Child projects and their partners willing to engage in common activities in accordance to partnership strategy principles.	PCU and Child Projects

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 1.2.1 Collaborative partnerships synergizing their actions on common issues in the ABNJ following an agreed partnership strategy with ten opportunities for cooperation jointly identified	Opportunities for cooperation jointly identified by relevant partners and projects (number)	0	6	10	Review of coordination meeting reports (to be produced by the PCU)	Child projects and their partners willing to commit to a partnership strategy	PCU
Outcome 1.3 The progress of the program is effectively and consistently monitored, and the results guide adaptive management of the program.	Child projects whose strategic directions consider, and where necessary respond to, the results of programmatic M&E (number)	NA	4	4	Review of Child Project PIRs and PSC reports	Receptiveness of child projects to the results of programme-wide M&E	PCU

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 1.3.1 Harmonized programmatic M&E system to guide adaptive program management and reporting with yearly programmatic reports	Programmatic reports produced and submitted to GSC (number)	0	2	5	Program reports	Child projects are willing to share their reports and provide timely and regular updates to the GCP	PCU
Component 2: Knowledge management, communications and outreach, and capacity building for effective and integrated sustainable use of the ABNJ.							
Outcome 2.1 Experiences and models of sustainable use of ABNJ are collated, analyzed and effectively communicated through 28 results reports) including IW:Learn notes), stimulating scaling up and replication	Programmatic results reports (number)	0	13 (at least. 5/year)	28 (at least. 5/year)	Knowledge products and tools, IW:Learn experience and results notes, capacity building tools, multi-media productions and publications	Child projects are sharing knowledge and communication products with GCP	PCU

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 2.1.1 Integrated Program KM and Communication (KMC) strategy developed and implemented with common messaging and guidance for coordinated, consistent and harmonized communications including 1% allocation to IW:Learn activities.	Development of Program KMC Strategy and Guidelines	NA	Program KMC Strategy and Guidelines finalized (year 1) and work plan implemented	Program KMC work plan implemented	Program KMC Strategy Review of KMC products across the Program	A Programmatic KMC Strategy is developed and agreed by all child projects	PCU
Output 2.1.2 Guidance and support provided to the projects for dissemination of knowledge products that capture lessons learned through six KMC meetings, trainings and	KMC support to the other child projects facilitated	NA	Ongoing KMC support to child projects	Ongoing KMC support to child projects	Review of KMC related interactions between projects	Sufficient demand for guidance and support from child projects	PCU
	Program KMC meetings, trainings and workshops (number)	0	3	6	Meeting reports	Child projects and their partners are available and interested in participating in KMC events	PCU

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
workshops. Consolidation of lessons learned across the Program into a narrative of the programmatic impacts.	Program knowledge-sharing hub integrated in Program website developed and managed	Program website exists since 2012	Program website updated and Program knowledge-sharing hub integrated in program website developed by end of year 1	System and contents managed and updated	Review of website	Sufficient demand for guidance and support from child projects for sharing of lessons learned	PCU
Outcome 2.2 Increased capacity among global, regional and national actors in common areas of learning (e.g. ecosystem approach, natural capital assessment, climate change, monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) communication)	Improved capacity measured by pre/post training questionnaires, or through dedicated surveys (score)	Baseline to be determined before trainings	Increase	Increase	Training reports; questionnaires; surveys	Agreement on common areas of learning reached and sufficient demand across projects for capacity building	PCU

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 2.2.1 Five capacity building products developed and processes to facilitate their uptake among key actors organised.	Capacity building tools focused on capacity building, including synthesis documents and program e-learning material developed and disseminated (number)	0	3 Capacity building products/synthesis documents	5 Capacity building products/synthesis documents	Capacity building and e-learning materials available.		
	Targeted individuals using common online materials and tools across the Program (number, disaggregated by gender)	0	2,500 (40% women)	5,000 (40% women)	Publication of training tools, Logs of usage of online tools and courses.	Participation of child projects in the identification and development of content in response to training needs	Project management units
Outcome 2.3 General public increasingly aware of ABNJ issues and the actions of the Program to address these issues	Levels of awareness as determined by surveys of target audience. 1 during inception and one during final year of implementation.	To be determined at the beginning of the project	Increase	Increase	Programmatic surveys.	Sufficient individuals are replying to survey	PCU

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Final Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Output 2.3.1 Consistent and branded outreach and awareness raising efforts for civil society stakeholders communicated by child projects,and coordinated at the Program level and 15 programmatic information, outreach and awareness raising products.	Program information, outreach and awareness-raising products (number)	0	7 total 2 videos 5 publications	15 total 5 videos 10 publications	Review of website and publications		PCU
	Development and management of dedicated program website.	Program website exists since 2012.	Website updated regularly with information and KMC products from all child projects	Website updated regularly with information and KMC products from all child projects	Review of website Website user statistics	Child projects are providing information and sharing KMC products with GCP	PCU

Component 3: Innovative private sector engagement in the ABNJ							
Outcome 3.1 The private sector enabled to engage and innovatively invest in collective action to address ?global? or ?ABNJ wide? sustainability issues through at least 12 private sector entities with enhanced understanding and ability to act to address ABNJ sustainability	Private sector entities with enhanced understanding and ability to act to address ABNJ sustainability (number)	N/A	At least 6	At least 12	Survey	Important private sector actors will be receptive to the information and identify value worth pursuing.	GCP M&E Specialist in collaboration with WWF and CI

Output.3.1.1 Nine strategic documents and forums that improve private sector understanding of the financial feasibility and risks associated with investments and promote partnerships to support actions to address ABNJ-wide sustainability issues.	Strategic documents prepared and promoted (number)	0	4 total 2 (web platform) 2 (Fiji/PIOC)	7 total 3 (web platform) 3 (Fiji/PIOC) 1 (roadmap climate change	Partner progress reports, Workshop reports, Review of website postings		WWF CI
	Strategic forums established and operational (number)	0	2 total 1 (web platform) 1 (Fiji/PIOC)	2 total 1 (web platform) 1 (Fiji/PIOC)	Partner progress reports Website postings Forum meeting notes	Interest of private sector in ABNJ issues can be generated	WWF CI
Outcome 3.2 Model/approach for improved engagement of the private sector in addressing collective action in the ABNJ developed, established and operational with two financially viable private sector models and pilots.	Financially viable private sector models and pilots (number)	0	0	2	Review of GCP implementation reports and products	Private sector actors can be convinced by benefits of viable business	WWF CI

Output 3.2.1 Two private sector investment agreement that contributes to realizing Program objectives	Private sector investment agreements developed to reduce the ecological impacts in ABNJ (number)	0	0	2 total 1 marine debris 1 Fiji/PIOC	Partnership investment agreemenents	A viable business can be conceived, analyzed and developed. Fiji governmen t willing and able to implement policy reforms	WWF CI
Output 3.2.2 Two pilot studies apply the value chain approach demonstrating private sector adoption of best practices to improve sustainable use of ABNJ resources.	Pilot studies to demonstrate improved private sector engagement (number)	0	Total 1 1 marine debris	Total 2 1 marine debris 1 FIP/PIOC	Review of products produced by GCP	Private companies are willing to engage and effectively sharing business informatio n	WWF CI

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

GEF Agencies ***(no comments received at WP inclusion)***

Comments from GEF Council

Note: Some of the comments received were more pertinent to the child projects than to the Common Ocean ABNJ Program. However, for the sake of completion, all responses are also reproduced here.

Canada.

?We recommend adding a line to the description of the project alluding to the negotiations process, along the lines of: ?Additional projects may be considered in light of the Agreement on Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) currently under negotiations at the UN.?

The Program and the project teams are in full agreement with the reviewer?s point for the need for the Program to be fully aligned with the BBNJ. Under the earlier (first) Common Oceans ABNJ Program, the Capacity Project together with the Tuna Project I, provided important information to the BBNJ

negotiators and contributed to building bridges between fisheries and environment communities that are essential in the BBNJ negotiations. While progress in BBNJ negotiations on ?zero draft? of the text treaty has been affected by the pandemic for much of 2021, the 4th in-person meeting of the IGC is expected sometime in 2022. Collaboration between the BBNJ process and the GEF-7 Program and Project will continue primarily through: (i) support for more effective compliance and enforcement of fisheries regulations, (ii) development and promotion of adoption of best-practices for sustainable management of ABNJ resources, (iii) contributions to and coordination with the BBNJ process as it continues to evolve and develop in the future, (iv) providing support for sustainably sourced ABNJ products with emphasis on greater transparency and traceability leading to reductions of IUU products in the market and (v) leveraging increased public and private support and investment in the sustainable management of the ABNJ.

Denmark/Norway.

? ?The project document points out that around 12% of the global fish catches are caught in the high seas. This does not make the catch insignificant but shows the importance of responsible management within the EEZs. International legal obligations need to, as noted in the project document, be integrated in national legislations, but the project does not seem to address this major obstacle.

? Many Regional Fisheries Management Organisations need strengthened capacity development. Historically industrialized countries have benefited from exploration and exploitation of the high seas, whereas poorer countries have lacked the means to invest in larger fishing vessels etc. The duty to document the sustainability of fisheries and other activities, although obviously necessary and supported, can become a barrier to poorer countries who lack both financial resources and research vessel capacity. Sharing data and research findings through regional arrangements can be a way of reducing the barrier. It is not provided any overview on how the current catches are distributed between developing and developed countries (who are the largest fishing nations in the high seas?).

Since the 1950s, catch of tunas has increased from less than 500,000 mt to more than 5,200,000 mt today (https://iss-foundation.org/knowledge-tools/technical-and-meeting-reports/download-info/issf-2021-10-status-of-the-world-fisheries-for-tuna-march-2021/). Through the 2010s, more than 60% of the catch was made by developed countries with current Human Development Index values in the upper quartile of the HDI range (http://hdr.undp.org/en/2020-report/). However, in the past decade, the proportion of total catch made by the highest ranked HDI countries (most developed) and that proportional share had trended downward to about 40% of the total catch while the contributions made by less developed countries has increased to about 60% overall. Components of the Tuna II proposal are aimed at further improvements in the effective participation of less developed countries through capacity building and through application of fishery improvement projects, especially for tuna fisheries operated by Small Island Developing States.

? In paragraph 14 it says that ?Globally, it is estimated that 33 % of marine fish stocks are currently overexploited and 60 % are considered fully utilized, meaning that 93 % of stocks have limited or no potential for increasing production (FAO, 2018).? The FAO Fisheries Symposium in 2019 presented research showing the potential for growth in better regulated fisheries. Stocks can be rebuilt through strict regulation, so it seems misleading to state that ?93 % of stocks have limited or no potential for increasing production?. The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018 (SOFIA) operates with the term ?fish stocks that are within biologically sustainable levels?. In 2018 this category is 66.9% of global fish stocks.?

The project team agrees with the point raised. This occurred in the PFD at the time of its initial submission and we have removed the misleading phrase "93% of stocks have limited or no potential for increasing production unless overfished stocks can be rebuilt to optimal levels through management.? One of the objectives of the Program is to achieve sustainable and efficient tuna fisheries production and biodiversity conservation through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach."

Germany.

Germany approves the proposal for a global program that contributes to addressing barriers preventing effective governance and management for sustainable use of ABNJ natural living resources, especially, but not limited to, sustainable fisheries management and marine protective areas globally, but asks that the following comments be taken into account. Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

? Outcome 2.1: Germany asks to include IMO?s International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex V with reference to the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear (2019).

The FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear (FAO 2019) was endorsed by 33rd Session of FAO?s Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2018, which was the outcome of a process of consultations over a period of more than twenty-five years (the first expert consultation was held in 1991) with intensive effort during the five years prior to the endorsement. The issue of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) has taken even greater urgency and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also focuses attention on the issue with its Sustainable Development Goal 14.1, which urges a significant reduction of marine pollution of all kinds by 2025, including fishing gear which are made predominantly of plastic.

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear will help States to implement measures to ensure that all fishing gears are marked, and, if lost or discarded, can be traced back to its original owner. The FAO Voluntary Guidelines take into consideration IMO?s International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), specifically Annex V that prohibits the discharge into the sea of all plastics, including synthetic fishing gear, with specific mention of the 2012 Guidelines for the Implementation of MARPOL Annex V.

Annex V requires that the loss of fishing gear is reported to the vessel's flag State and to the coastal State, in which waters the loss occurred. The marking of fishing gear facilitates reporting and monitoring.

In particular the Tuna project will support work being undertaken on gathering data of gear loss and abandonment and quantify the impacts of ALDFG, as well as promote and support the work being carried out in the context of implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines in coordination with FAO and partners, most notably the fishing industry.

The Tuna project will also contribute to filling the data gaps on ALDFG as identified by the IMO/FAO jointly-led GESAMP WG43 on Sea-based sources of marine litter

(see http://www.gesamp.org/work/groups/wg-43-on-sea-based-sources-of-marine-litter)

? Germany welcomes the overview on women in fisheries (Para 3. Gender) and the use of core indicator 11 of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender. In addition, Germany asks to include an indicator on the level of women empowerment to be reached and to specify the support for gender equality and equity in accordance to the four program components and the child projects.

The Gender Action Plan (GAP) prepared as part of the project specifies the manner in which gender considerations are mainstreamed in project components.

? Germany asks to add an exit strategy for the proposed GEF-7-ABNJ in case there is no further funding under future GEF programs, with reference to the GEF-5 Program (line 150).

The Project success will be defined by its ability to reach the formulated outcomes and goals within the life of the project. From that point of view, the project does not depend on getting further funding in future GEF projects. Nevertheless, the project promotes changes in behavior through market and financial incentives that, with the support of the private sector and civil society, will continue to create a favorable environment for sustainable practices. This is reinforced by the creation of multi-sectorial partnerships that prove effective in delivering long-lasting results, and that might continue beyond the life of the project.

Swiss.

We strongly support this program and have just a few comments:

? We request that the program be fully aligned with the BBNJ negotiations and it should also mention them in the context of program.

The project team is in full agreement with the reviewer?s point for the need for the Program to be fully aligned with the BBNJ. Kindly see the team?s response to Canada?s comments above.

? Please further specify how 12 million hectares of marine protected areas will be concretely improved in particular in light of the lack of a global regime to define marine protected areas.

This issue is associated with the DSF Project CPC and has been addressed under the DSF Project responses in the respective PRODOC. But the countries operating under the framework of the RFMOs provide a strong basis for improving the management and protection of the ABNJ areas through a number of measures that might include, but not be limited to, marine protected areas. The coming into force of the BBNJ Agreement will provide a mechanism for assessing the effect of cumulative human impacts, and agreeing to the best mitigating actions to ensure sustainable utilization of resources while conserving biodiversity.

? Please further elaborate how safeguards to avoid any loss of biodiversity will be developed as part of the sustainable management of tuna and deep-sea fisheries component.

One of the objectives of the phase II of the Program is ?to achieve responsible, efficient and sustainable tuna harvests and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ in face of a changing environment.? As a consequence, the Project will be environmentally and socially beneficial to the environment and if properly designed and adequately implemented, in the absence of impacts associated with adverse, non-project related externalities, should lead to an improvement of the ?health? of stocks and associated marine ecosystem and dependent communities. Moreover, there are few field activities limiting direct impact on the environment. Rather most of these activities involve:

(i) workshops and training activities (e.g., capacity building, consultations and information dissemination, development of best practices); (ii) studies (e.g., to address critical data gaps in tuna fisheries management, documenting cost-effectiveness of the project-supported activities and updating of global assessments); and (iii) policy (e.g., promoting increased compliance in support of EAFM principles). At the national and local level there will be a certain number of pilot activities supported by the Project. However, for the most part these countries and sites have yet to be finalized . Nevertheless, given the nature of the activities environmental and social impacts for the most part appear to be positive. Adverse impacts appear to be minimal. Regardless, an environmental and social review will be conducted by the PMU with support from FAO?s GEF Unit if need be during the process of finalization of each of these pilot acticvities. Particular attention will be given to the presence of vulnerable and/or indigenous communities. Where required, mitigation measures will be identified, costed and incorporated into final design of the activity.

For more detail on how this issue is addressed in the Deep-Sea Fisheries Project kindly see the DSF project document.

•It is unclear to us how the cross-sectoral collaboration and governance will be improved as part of the program. Please further specify. US.

We are strongly supportive of the other child projects in this Program, as evidenced through our in-kind partnership (via NOAA Fisheries) in Phase I. We anticipate that our mutual support in these areas will continue through Phase II. The two coordinating-themed projects in particular seem well aware of the processes that will influence the project, as well as the dynamics of the processes the projects are trying to influence themselves. However, there were somewhat limited opportunities for stakeholder consultation and involvement in Phase I of the project that we hope can be improved upon moving forward.

The project team is highly appreciative of NOAA?s support for the Phase I projects; support that NOAA has pledged to continue into the Program?s second phase. With respect to issue raised on the limited stakeholder consultation and involvement in Phase I this issue was identified in the MTR and TE and the team concurs. Much greater emphasis has been placed on the consultation process under difficult circumstances due to the pandemic during the preparation of the 2nd phase Tuna project. This has been documented in section 2 of the main text supported by additional detail in Annex M. The strategy supported by explicit funding to continue to support public consultation during project implementation as part of the PMU activities (e.g., inception workshop, PSC meetings etc.) as well as the broader KMC sub-components guided by the Programme?s KMC strategy will support a robust consultation and information exchange process. More detail can be found in Annex I2 (Stakeholder Engagement Plan).

In addition, greater emphasis has been placed in providing a stronger coordinating mechanisms for the second phase of the Program, to provide multiple opportunities for cross-fertilization and cooperation among the child projects. On stakeholder participation, we have a stronger and more diverse multi-sectoral partnership that we had in the first phase.

Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) Scientific and Technical Screening of the Project Identification Form

Date of screening: 21 May, 2020

Screener: Blake Ratner

Panel member validation by: Virginia Gorsevski

Further guidance from STAP:

Section 1.a.3. Alternative scenario: Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?

STAP review: Yes. A key determinant of success will be the quality and effectiveness of the multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration processes supported. See new STAP Guidance Note, ?Multi-stakeholder dialogue for transformational change? (available in advance of June 2020 GEF Council meeting).

The project team reviewed the STAP Guidance Note ?Multi-stakeholder dialogue for transformational change?in the development of its approach to consultation with both project executing partners and other collaborative stakeholders during project design. This approach will be carried forward during implementation of Tuna II

Section 8. Knowledge Management: What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used?

STAP review: KM treated substantively as a core program element. Good discussion of processes, tools and approaches, including highly interactive in-person and online learning and exchange. Would benefit from clear identification of metrics to measure KM achievements, relating these to the overall program objectives.

The project team agrees with the suggestion and believe this has been addressed under various projects. For the GCP see all outputs and outcomes under Component 2.

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: **100,000**			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent to date***	***Amount Committed***
Stakeholder consultations	3,000	3,000	0
Gender GAP Analysis	5,000	5,000	0
COVID 19 Assessment	5,000	5,000	0
Completion of Operational Partner Capacity Assessments	12,000	0	12,000

Development of the FAO Project Document	75,000	75,000	0
Total	**100,000**	**88,000**	**12,000**

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

The following maps, that were included in the Program Framework Document, show the coverage of the areas of mandate for the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations in the ABNJ

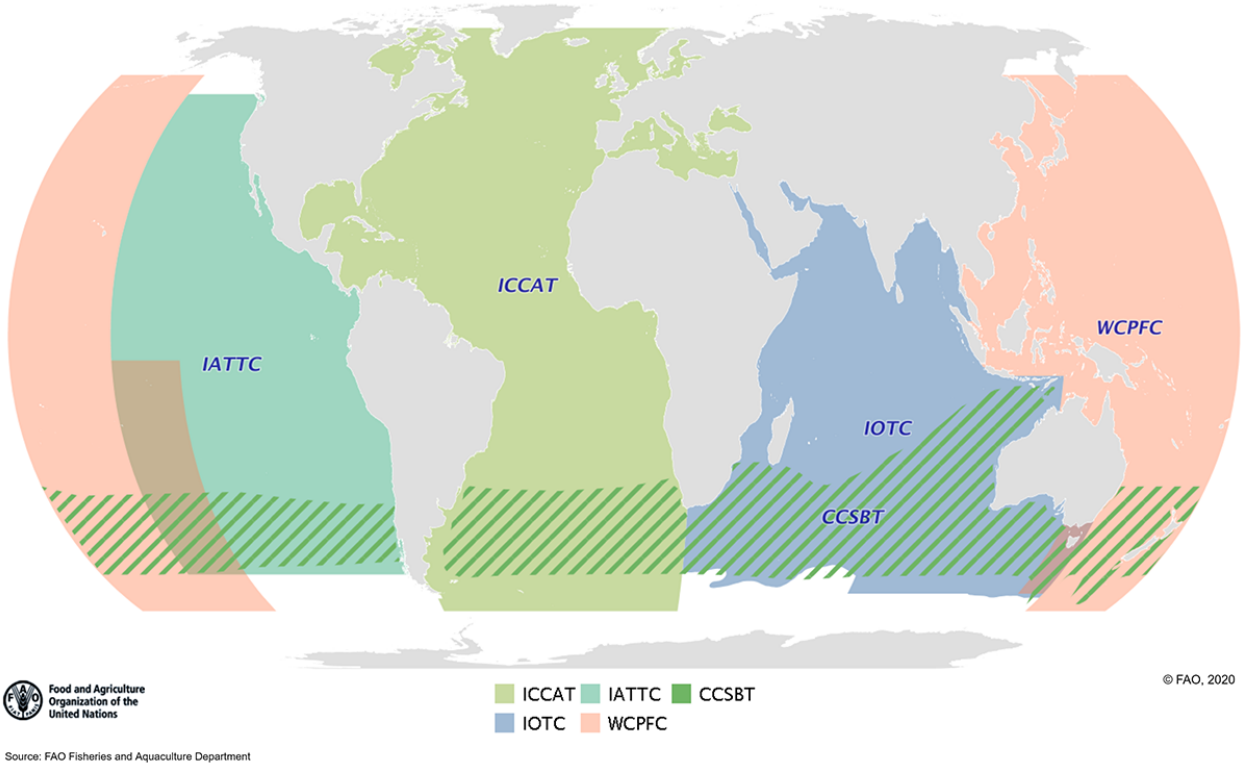

Figure 1. Areas of competence of the tuna RFMOs

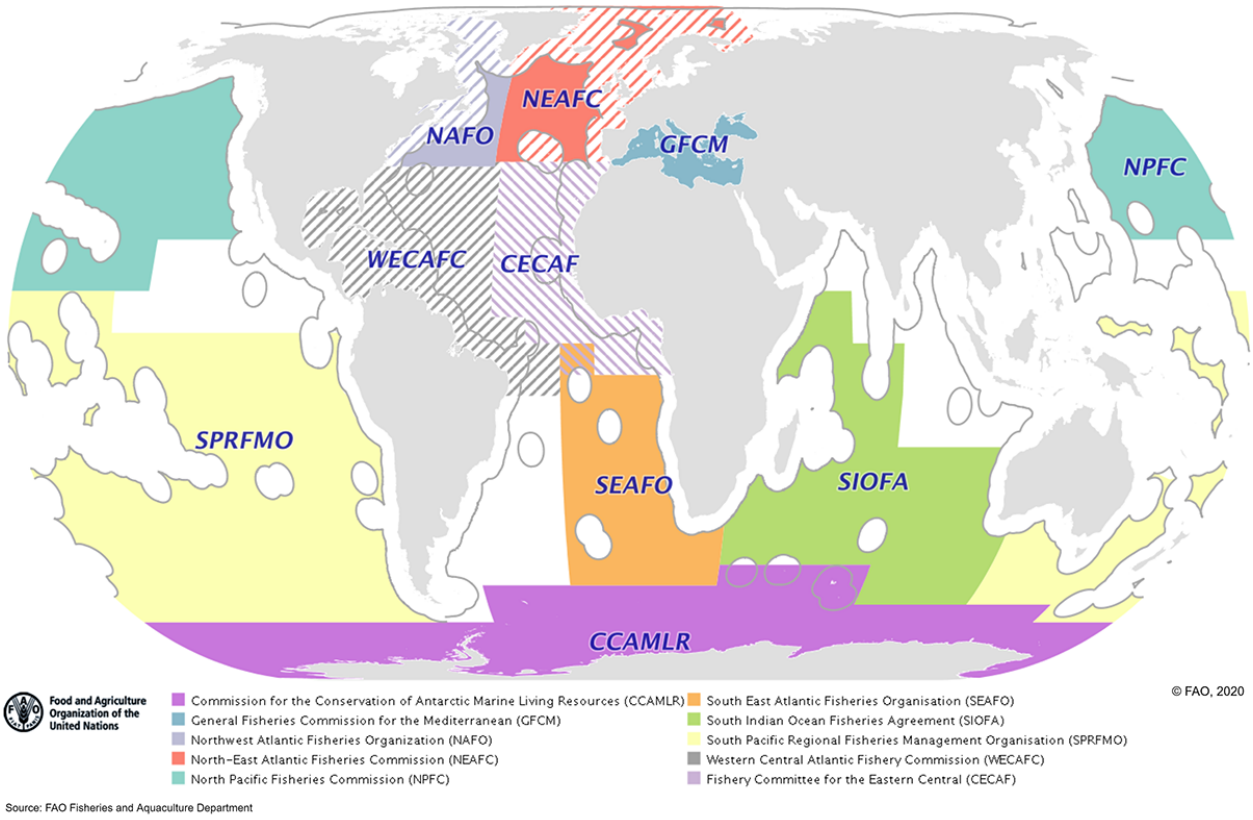

Figure 2. Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) with the competence to manage (solid colour) and advise (diagonal shading) on small pelagic and deep sea fisheries

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

					Global Coordination Project BUDGET (GEF FINANCING)			Expenditures by year							
Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Component 1: Total	Component 2: Total	Component 3 Total	PM	Total GEF	NFI	FAO	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year4	Year 5
5300 Salaries professionals															
ToRs 1. Global Program Coordinator	Months	59	21,000	600,000	420,000	167,938	51,062	1,239,000	1,239,000		247,800	247,800	247,800	247,800	247,800
ToRs 2. M&E Expert	Months	5	16,000	0	0	0	80,000	80,000	80,000		16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
5300 Sub-total salaries professionals				**600,000**	**420,000**	**167,938**	**131,062**	**1,319,000**	**1,319,000**	**0**	**263,800**	**263,800**	**263,800**	**263,800**	**263,800**
5570 Consultants				*0*											
National Consultants				0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total national Consultants				**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**			**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Communication Specialist	Months	7.5	5,500	0	41,250	0	0	41,250	41,250		8,250	8,250	8,250	8,250	8,250
Knowledge Management Specialist	months	15	10,000	0	150,000	0	0	150,000	150,000		30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Sub-total international Consultants				**0**	**191,250**	**0**	**0**	**191,250**	**191,250**	**0**	**38,250**	**38,250**	**38,250**	**38,250**	**38,250**
5570 Sub-total consultants				**0**	**191,250**	**0**	**0**	**191,250**	**191,250**	**0**	**38,250**	**38,250**	**38,250**	**38,250**	**38,250**
5650 Contracts				*0*											
WWF	LS	1	564,620	0	0	564,620		564,620	564,620		112,924	112,924	112,924	112,924	112,924
CI	LS	1	572,250	0	0	572,250		572,250	572,250		114,450	114,450	114,450	114,450	114,450
Medium-term Evaluation (ME)	LS	1	31	30,000	0	0	0	30,000		30,000			30,000		
Terminal Evaluation (TE)	LS	1	50	50,000	0	0	0	50,000		50,000					50,000
Terminal Report	LS	1	6,650	6,650	0	0	0	6,650		6,650					6,650
5650 Sub-total Contracts				**86,650**	**0**	**1,136,870**	**0**	**1,223,520**	**1,136,870**	**86,650**	**227,374**	**227,374**	**257,374**	**227,374**	**284,024**
5900 Travel				*0*											
Program Manager	LS	4	2,500	2,262	2,262	8,000		12,524	12,524		2,505	2,505	2,505	2,505	2,505
5900 Sub-total travel				**2,262**	**2,262**	**8,000**	**0**	**12,524**	**12,524**	**0**	**2,505**	**2,505**	**2,505**	**2,505**	**2,505**
5023 Training				*0*											
Gender workshops	LS	2	3,000	0	6,000	0		6,000	6,000		1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
5023 Sub-total training				**0**	**6,000**	**0**	**0**	**6,000**	**6,000**	**0**	**1,200**	**1,200**	**1,200**	**1,200**	**1,200**
6300 GOE budget				*0*											
GOE budget				0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total GOE				**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
TOTAL				**688,912**	**619,512**	**1,312,808**	**131,062**	**2,752,294**	**2,665,644**	**86,650**	**533,129**	**533,129**	**563,129**	**533,129**	**589,779**

SUBTOTAL Comp 1			688,912	26.3%
SUBTOTAL Comp 2			619,512	23.6%
SUBTOTAL Comp 3			1,312,808	50.1%
TOTAL Components			2,621,232	
Project Management (5%)			131,062	5.0%
TOTAL GEF			2,752,294	

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

n/a

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

n/a

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).

n/a